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### THANKS

to all Idaho Employment readers who filled out the survey that appeared in the August newsletter. The results will be reported in the November issue. Every effort will be made to make changes that will benefit the most readers.

As always, the current Idaho Employment newsletter, along with several years of archives, is available on the agency's Labor Market Information Web site at <http://lmi.idaho.gov>. Select "Publications" from the menu on the left and scroll down to Idaho Employment.

## State Overview

### IDAHO'S JULY UNEMPLOYMENT SHOWED SLIGHT INCREASE

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.6 percent in July, continuing the historic streak of 15 straight months of unemployment rates below 4 percent. Only twice before has the rate ever been that low – 3.9 percent in December 1965 and again in May 1966. The lowest rate, 3.2 percent, was recorded this March. The unemployment rate in July 2005 was 3.8 percent.

Idaho is still growing, but the rate of growth, which was explosive in 2004 and 2005, is slowing to a healthier, more stable level. The state's working men and women are responsible for its strong economic performance since the national recession three years ago. Idaho is committed to pursuing more quality jobs for an expanding work force through economic development efforts to help businesses create more than minimum wage jobs.

The national unemployment rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.8 percent in July.

While there are fluctuations in the number of people available for work, Idaho's employment situation remained stable for the fourth consecutive month. The number of people working remained well above 700,000 for the 18<sup>th</sup> month in a row at 729,000. That total was down just 1,800 from June. The number of people looking for work in July increased but only by a statistically insignificant 700 to 27,500.

Nationally, employment increased by 2.2 million people, or 1.6 percent, between July 2005 and July 2006. Idaho's increase was 2.3 percent, or 16,700.

The state's labor force was 16,300 larger than a year ago, or 2.3 percent, and the number of persons unemployed was still below the year-earlier level by 500, or 1.8 percent. In prior years, the year-over-year change in the number of unemployed workers has been evenly split between increases and decreases. So the increase last month is not unusual.

Unemployment insurance claims have been flat over the past two months, a key indicator that the Idaho economy has completed its recovery from the national slowdown in 2001 and 2002. It appears to be settling in to a pattern similar to the late 1990s when the economy was more sustainable and stable.

## County and Labor Market Area Labor Force Highlights

State Table 1 on page 3 lists the labor force components for Idaho's counties, labor market areas and major cities.

Four Idaho counties experienced unemployment rates above 8 percent in July: Benewah at 9.8 percent was up from 8 percent in June, Clearwater at 9.4 percent was up from 9.2 percent, Shoshone at 8.5 percent was up from 6.8 percent and Boundary at 8 percent was up from 6.9 percent.

Unemployment rates below 3 percent were posted in seven counties: Teton at 1.8 percent was down from 2 percent in June, Oneida at 2.2 percent was down from 2.6 percent, Owyhee at 2.6 percent was down from 2.9 percent, Camas was unchanged at 2.7 percent, Ada was also unchanged at 2.8 percent, Franklin at 2.9 percent was up from 2.1 percent and Madison at 2.9 percent was down from 3.6 percent.

The Grangeville Small Labor Market Area's unemployment rate was the highest among the 10 labor market areas at 6.3 percent, up six-tenths of a percentage point from June but only four-tenths of a percentage point from one year earlier. The lowest rate occurred in the Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area at 3 percent, unchanged from the previous month. Just as a point of interest, the Boise-Nampa area's labor force of 293,483 is slightly below the total of the other eight areas - 320,717 and is 39 percent of the state's total.

The city of Caldwell had the highest unemployment rate of the state's nine major cities at 4.2 percent, up four-tenths of a percentage point from June but below the 4.7 percent unemployment rate in July 2005. Meridian had the lowest rate at 2 percent, unchanged from June and two-tenths of a percentage point below one year ago.

## NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

State Table 4 on page 6 provides employment details for the major nonfarm industries in Idaho.

The number of persons employed dropped 1,800, but the loss in the number of nonfarm payroll jobs was more than double that, down 4,000. While it is not unusual to have a decline in the payroll numbers from June to July in Idaho, the number of persons working normally increases. In fact, this year is the first in 10 years that the number of persons working has dropped. Every year since 2001 the number of jobs has decreased an average of 4,000, but the decrease has varied from year to year. In 2005, the decrease was just over 400, but in 2001 there were nearly 6,400 jobs lost between June and July.

Some of the reasons for the differences in the employment measures are fairly well known. The household survey used to determine employment is a count of people while the employer survey used to determine nonfarm payroll jobs is a count of jobs. The household survey includes farm workers, family workers and the self-employed, which are not counted in the employer survey. And the household survey includes Idahoans who work in another state while the employer survey does not. But the employer survey does include workers who live in another state and work for an Idaho employer. Some analysts contend the employer survey has an inherent lag in identifying and including new employers. Whatever the reason, it is wise not to compare one measurement against the other but to look for trends in each measure separately.

In July, goods-producing industries added 1,400 jobs, a 1.1 percent increase to 126,000. Construction increased 1.6 percent, or 900 new jobs. But this was the smallest increase since February. The state's

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housing and commercial construction activity continues, and summer is the time for road work with industry employment hitting 56,600 — an all-time record. The year-over-year comparison is just as impressive: 8,100 additional jobs for a 16.7 percent growth rate. The reasons for this high pace remain the same — continuing population growth, low interest rates and a state economy in generally good shape.

There was virtually no change in Idaho's manufacturing sector as a net of 300 jobs was added between June and July. Although transportation equipment manufacturing had a 6.3 percent job loss from June, it was just a loss of 200. The year-over-year comparison shows a growth of 100 jobs. The other jobs loss, a fractional one, occurred in food manufacturing and could be the result of statistical rounding. There were year-over-year job gains of 300 in both fabricated metal manufacturing and veneer and engineered wood manufacturing. The other manufacturing industries had very little or no change for the month or the year.

The service-providing industries lost 5,400 jobs between June and July. Six individual industries experienced job losses. Sectors of education lost over 400 jobs. While some teachers and support staff continued working past mid-June, when the employment survey occurs, they were laid off by mid-July. In some cases summer school sessions ended by mid-July and staff were no longer working. Many teachers remain in the labor force during the summer, working other jobs or looking for other jobs. However, many prefer vacation time or the pursuit of non-paid interests. This explains, in part, why the unemployment rate can decrease when more than 7,000 workers lose their education-related jobs.

There were positive job gains in retail trade and the leisure and hospitality industries. This year was a great one for the tourist industry, even with higher gas prices. Driving, especially in-state travel, could prove to be cheaper than other vacation alternatives. The excellent water conditions provided great fishing, boating and rafting opportunities. It was not until August that the large number of forest and range fires closed many campgrounds across the state. Tourist-related employment remained strong and above last year's levels. Many factors will determine just how well tourism fared this year — sales taxes, hotel and motel receipts, visitor center usage, Canadian border crossings among them, but the employment factor looked good through July.

## HIGH-TECH JOBS

There is always a lot of interest in high-tech jobs. There is the perception that these are the jobs that pay more money and are growing the fastest. But what really is a high-tech job? As this new century began, it appeared that these jobs were some of the fastest growing in Idaho and were the future of the state's economic

State Table 1: July 2006 Labor Force (preliminary)				
Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
<b>Lewiston MSA</b>	29,042	1,295	4.5	27,747
Nez Perce County	18,937	771	4.1	18,166
Asotin County, WA	10,105	525	5.2	9,581
<b>Boise City-Nampa MSA</b>	287,271	9,081	3.2	278,191
Ada County	191,149	5,546	2.9	185,602
Boise County	3,789	135	3.6	3,654
Canyon County	79,868	2,985	3.7	76,883
Gem County	7,492	303	4.0	7,189
Owyhee County	4,974	112	2.2	4,863
<b>Pocatello MSA</b>	44,429	1,623	3.7	42,807
Bannock County	40,645	1,462	3.6	39,183
Power County	3,784	160	4.2	3,624
<b>Idaho Falls MSA</b>	60,800	1,653	2.7	59,148
Bonneville County	49,978	1,340	2.7	48,638
Jefferson County	10,822	313	2.9	10,510
<b>Coeur d'Alene MSA*</b>	68,570	2,577	3.8	65,993
<b>Burley MicSA</b>	20,163	961	4.8	19,203
Cassia County	10,350	440	4.3	9,910
Minidoka County	9,813	520	5.3	9,293
<b>Rexburg MicSA</b>	21,270	563	2.6	20,707
Fremont County	6,194	224	3.6	5,970
Madison County	15,076	339	2.2	14,737
<b>Twin Falls MicSA</b>	49,597	1,581	3.2	48,016
Jerome County	10,507	335	3.2	10,171
Twin Falls County	39,091	1,246	3.2	37,845
<b>Grangeville SLMA</b>	9,037	481	5.3	8,556
Idaho County	7,247	425	5.9	6,822
Lewis County	1,790	56	3.1	1,734
<b>Hailey SLMA</b>	15,112	373	2.5	14,738
Blaine County	14,494	354	2.4	14,140
Camas County	618	20	3.2	598
Adams County	1,940	132	6.8	1,808
Bear Lake County	3,165	110	3.5	3,055
Benewah County	4,115	291	7.1	3,824
Blackfoot MicSA (Bingham County)	21,510	752	3.5	20,758
Bonner County	20,993	921	4.4	20,072
Boundary County	4,202	322	7.7	3,881
Butte County	1,234	55	4.4	1,179
Caribou County	3,376	151	4.5	3,225
Clark County	548	25	4.6	523
Clearwater County	3,381	281	8.3	3,100
Custer County	2,733	116	4.2	2,617
Mountain Home MicSA (Elmore County)	10,959	494	4.5	10,465
Franklin County	6,248	180	2.9	6,069
Gooding County	8,499	235	2.8	8,264
Moscow MicSA (Latah County)	18,032	580	3.2	17,452
Lemhi County	4,216	214	5.1	4,001
Lincoln County	2,594	96	3.7	2,498
Oneida County	2,283	50	2.2	2,233
Payette County	10,389	659	6.3	9,730
Shoshone County	5,845	408	7.0	5,437
Teton County	4,582	109	2.4	4,474
Valley County	4,877	190	3.9	4,687
Washington County	5,013	234	4.7	4,779
<b>State of Idaho</b>	<b>745,919</b>	<b>26,268</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>719,651</b>
<b>Idaho Cities</b>				
Boise	121,548	3,802	3.1	117,746
Caldwell	22,084	850	3.9	21,233
Coeur d'Alene	30,776	915	3.0	29,862
Idaho Falls	15,929	626	3.9	15,304
Lewiston	31,261	1,275	4.1	29,985
Meridian	28,468	893	3.1	27,576
Nampa	20,615	665	3.2	19,950
Pocatello	21,344	447	2.1	20,896
Twin Falls	15,152	642	4.2	14,510
* Coeur d'Alene MSA includes all of Kootenai County.				

growth. Then the recession hit. The number of jobs dropped dramatically.

High-tech employers are those “engaged in the design, development and introduction of new products through the systematic application of scientific and technical knowledge.” These employers typically use state-of-the-art techniques and, in terms of quantifiable resources, devote a high proportion of expenditures to research and development and employ a high proportion of scientific, technical and engineering personnel. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which has defined high-tech industries, determined that to qualify as high-tech, a company’s technology oriented employment must be at least 9.8 percent of total employment. There are 46 industries categorized as high-tech, as identified by the four-digit North American Industry Classification System. These industrial groups are broken down into three levels based on the proportion of the occupations that are technology based. These occupations are collectively referred to as technology oriented and include computer and mathematical scientists, engineers, drafters, engineering and mapping technicians, life scientists, physical scientists, computer and information systems managers, engineering managers, natural sciences managers and life, physical and social science technicians.

Just exactly where do these people work in Idaho? There are 14 industries in Level 1 with nearly one-fourth of the occupations defined as high-tech. The 14 are:

- 3254—Pharmaceutical and Medicine Manufacturing
- 3341—Computer and Peripheral Equipment Manufacturing
- 3342—Communications Equipment Manufacturing
- 3344—Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing
- 3345—Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical and Control Instruments Manufacturing
- 3364—Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing
- 5112—Software Publishers
- 5161—Internet Publishing and Broadcasting
- 5179—Other Telecommunications
- 5181—ISP's and Web Search Portals
- 5182—Data Processing and Related Services
- 5413—Architectural, Engineering and Related Services
- 5415—Computer Systems Design and Related Services
- 5417—Scientific Research and Development Services

During 2005, nearly half the jobs in some way involved computers – manufacturing them or their parts or designing their systems. There are over 700 Idaho businesses doing that work, accounting for 18,600 jobs. Since 2000 this group has lost 3,100 jobs but added 135 establishments. The largest growth was in the com-

puter systems design, which added 132 establishments in the last five years. These firms are small. Over three-fourths have only one to four employees. Only four of those companies had more than 100 workers.

The largest loss of jobs, 3,300, was in the manufacturing sectors.

Semiconductor manufacturing has the largest number of jobs. The next group, scientific research and development with 7,600 jobs, are primarily employees at the Idaho National Laboratory whose jobs are not directly related to computers. This group has experienced a loss of jobs since 2000 – down from 8,300. There are primarily two reasons for the job loss – downsizing and the change of the major contractor at INL.

A large sector – often not considered high-tech – is architectural, engineering and related services. It includes over 800 establishments with 5,800 jobs. The occupations include engineers, architects, managers and office support staff. However, there are jobs in all areas of computer systems including programmers, administrators and analysts. Interestingly enough, this industry also employs chemists, geoscientists, urban planners, graphic designers and nuclear technicians just to name a few occupations that many might not have considered Level 1 high-tech.

The other nine industries contribute less than 1,600 jobs per sector. The largest is software publishers. In 2005 there were 65, nearly double the number in 2000. They provided nearly 350 jobs. Closely related to this sector is Internet publishing, Internet providers and Internet database management. These three groups include 100 firms, up from 40 in 2000, with about 550 jobs.

In 2005, there were 1,907 Level 1 high-tech establishments with 33,534 jobs paying \$2.1 million in wages. Interestingly, Idaho’s Level 1 high-tech businesses in 2000 paid record wages of \$2.3 million to 35,813 workers. Five years later, there are over 400 more businesses paying just \$200,000 less to nearly 2,300 fewer workers. State Table 2 on page 5 is a comparison of the number of establishments, workers, wages and average wage from 2000 to 2005.

State Table 3 on page 5 shows the changes in firm, employment and wages between 2000 and 2005. On an annual average basis, the number of establishments has not decreased. The growth rate has fluctuated but the number has actually grown. The largest growth occurred in 1999, which is not shown on the table, with the addition of nearly 300 establishments. The smallest growth occurred in 2002, which was a direct result of the sharp decline in computer and computer accessory manufacturing activity in the state during the national economic slowdown. The wages decreased significantly in 2001 but have shown healthy increases each year since. Although the number of firms and their payrolls have grown, the number of jobs has not. Job losses occurred

State Table 2: Comparison of the Number of Establishments, Workers, Wages and Average Wage from 2000 to 2005.

Year	Units	Emp	Wages	Avg Wage	Percent Change				Numeric Change			
					Units	Emp	Wages	Avg Wage	Units	Emp	Wages	Avg Wage
2000	1,482	35,813	\$2,340,808,110	\$65,362	13.6	7.4	32.1	23.0	-34,508	2,466	569,423,616	12,242
2001	1,619	35,990	\$1,939,869,045	\$53,901	9.2	0.5	-17.1	-17.5	137	176	-400,939,065	-11,461
2002	1,590	33,445	\$1,864,232,826	\$55,741	-1.8	-7.1	-3.9	3.4	-29	-2,545	-75,636,219	1,840
2003	1,703	32,397	\$1,886,988,325	\$58,246	7.1	-3.1	1.2	4.5	113	-1,048	22,755,499	2,505
2004	1,759	32,901	\$2,009,887,534	\$61,088	3.3	1.6	6.5	4.9	57	504	122,899,209	2,843
2005	1,907	33,534	\$2,122,940,355	\$63,306	8.4	1.9	5.6	3.6	148	633	113,052,821	2,218

State Table 3: Level 1 High Tech Units, Employment & Wages by Industry Classification, 2000 & 2005

Industry Designation	2005			2000			Change between 2000 & 2005		
	Units	Emp	Wages	Units	Emp	Wages	Units	Emp	Wages
3254 Pharmaceutical and Medicine Manufacturing	12	22	\$1,960,250	4	3	\$48,834	9	19	\$1,911,416
3341 Computer and Peripheral Equipment Manufacturing	16	4,150	\$390,270,036	14	5,513	\$426,004,085	2	1,363	-\$35,734,049
3342 Communications Equipment Manufacturing	5	82	\$2,348,101	8	77	\$10,116,682	-3	4	-\$7,768,581
3344 Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing	33	11,599	\$701,553,585	32	13,583	\$1,069,406,404	1	1,984	-\$367,852,819
3345 Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical, and Control Instruments Manufacturing	23	318	\$13,418,203	14	251	\$9,896,673	9	67	\$3,521,530
3364 Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing	26	191	\$6,657,109	18	106	\$3,085,406	8	84	\$3,571,703
5112 Software Publishers	65	329	\$27,181,519	36	172	\$9,726,000	29	157	\$17,455,519
5161 Internet Publishing and Broadcasting	14	124	\$6,149,745	13	33	\$1,247,097	2	91	\$4,902,648
5179 Other Telecommunications	5	7	\$469,967	3	2	\$56,485	2	5	\$413,482
5181 ISP's and Web Search Portals	42	216	\$7,631,803	43	314	\$12,142,926	-1	-98	-\$4,511,123
5182 Data Processing and Related Services	44	208	\$10,495,320	32	119	\$5,816,720	12	89	\$4,678,600
5413 Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	825	5,775	\$290,162,254	623	4,697	\$202,169,094	201	1,079	\$87,993,160
5415 Computer Systems Design and Related Services	656	2,913	\$152,021,277	524	2,677	\$131,538,185	132	237	\$20,483,092
5417 Scientific Research and Development Services	142	7,601	\$512,621,186	118	8,266	\$459,553,519	25	-665	\$53,067,667
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,907</b>	<b>33,534</b>	<b>\$2,122,940,355</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>35,813</b>	<b>\$2,340,808,110</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>-2,279</b>	<b>-\$217,867,755</b>
<b>Average Annual Wage</b>			<b>\$63,306</b>			<b>\$65,362</b>			<b>-\$2,055</b>

in 2001 and 2002 with small increases in 2004 and 2005. However, the 2005 job level has not reached the peak of 2001.

High-tech jobs have accounted for 9 percent of the nonfarm payroll jobs since 1991 except for 2001 when there was a small rise to 10 percent. However, the percentage of Level 1 high-tech job has not followed the same trend. In 2000, Level 1 high-tech jobs accounted for 6.4 percent of all nonfarm jobs, dropping yearly to a low of 5.5 percent in 2005.

Following the same trend, Level 1 high-tech jobs have decreased in relation to all high-tech jobs from a high of 67 percent in 2000 to a low of 62 percent in 2005.

The outlook is for stability. The number of firms and wages will continue to increase at a faster rate than jobs. There will continue to be growth but at a smaller rate and the firms will be smaller in size. No matter what, Level 1 high-tech jobs will play a vital role in Idaho's economy.

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State Table 4: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

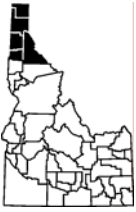
BY PLACE OF WORK	% Change From				
	Jul 2006*	Jun 2006	Jul 2005	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	646,200	650,200	618,600	-0.6	4.5
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES</b>	126,000	124,600	116,600	1.1	8.1
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	4,600	4,400	4,600	4.5	0.0
Logging	2,000	1,800	2,200	11.1	-9.1
Mining	2,600	2,600	2,400	0.0	8.3
Metal Ore Mining	800	800	700	0.0	14.3
<b>Construction</b>	56,600	55,700	48,500	1.6	16.7
<b>Manufacturing</b>	64,800	64,500	63,500	0.5	2.0
Durable Goods	42,000	41,800	40,800	0.5	2.9
Wood Product Manufacturing	8,200	8,100	7,900	1.2	3.8
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,700	2,700	2,800	0.0	-3.6
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,900	1,800	1,600	5.6	18.8
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,600	3,600	3,500	0.0	2.9
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,300	4,300	4,000	0.0	7.5
Machinery Manufacturing	2,800	2,700	2,600	3.7	7.7
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	16,200	16,200	16,200	0.0	0.0
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,000	3,200	2,900	-6.3	3.4
Other Durable Goods	7,500	7,300	7,200	2.7	4.2
Nondurable Goods	22,800	22,700	22,700	0.4	0.4
Food Manufacturing	14,200	14,300	14,400	-0.7	-1.4
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	7,100	7,100	7,300	0.0	-2.7
Paper Manufacturing	1,500	1,500	1,600	0.0	-6.3
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,900	1,800	1,900	5.6	0.0
Chemical Manufacturing	2,100	2,100	2,000	0.0	5.0
Other Nondurable Goods	3,100	3,000	2,800	3.3	10.7
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES</b>	520,200	525,600	502,000	-1.0	3.6
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	128,600	127,600	124,300	0.8	3.5
Trade	108,300	107,500	104,800	0.7	3.3
Wholesale Trade	28,400	28,300	27,200	0.4	4.4
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	13,200	13,400	12,700	-1.5	3.9
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	12,500	12,300	11,900	1.6	5.0
Retail Trade	79,900	79,200	77,600	0.9	3.0
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	12,200	12,200	11,700	0.0	4.3
Building Material and Garden Equipment	10,200	10,200	9,500	0.0	7.4
Food & Beverage Stores	12,600	12,600	12,400	0.0	1.6
General Merchandise Stores	16,400	16,200	15,800	1.2	3.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,300	20,100	19,500	1.0	4.1
Utilities	2,100	2,100	2,000	0.0	5.0
Transportation & Warehousing	18,200	18,000	17,500	1.1	4.0
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,100	0.0	18.2
Truck Transportation	9,400	9,300	8,800	1.1	6.8
<b>Information</b>	11,500	11,500	11,200	0.0	2.7
Telecommunications	4,800	4,700	4,500	2.1	6.7
<b>Financial Activities</b>	32,600	32,300	30,100	0.9	8.3
Finance & Insurance	23,600	23,500	21,700	0.4	8.8
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	9,000	8,800	8,400	2.3	7.1
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	83,700	83,700	79,100	0.0	5.8
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	31,900	31,800	30,700	0.3	3.9
Scientific Research & Development	7,300	7,300	7,500	0.0	-2.7
Management of Companies & Enterprises	8,200	8,200	7,700	0.0	6.5
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	43,600	43,700	40,700	-0.2	7.1
Administrative & Support Services	41,300	41,500	39,400	-0.5	4.8
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	69,600	69,800	66,900	-0.3	4.0
Educational Services	6,600	7,000	6,600	-5.7	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	63,000	62,800	60,300	0.3	4.5
Hospitals	13,800	13,600	13,100	1.5	5.3
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	64,600	63,700	61,600	1.4	4.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11,400	11,000	9,700	3.6	17.5
Accommodation & Food Services	53,200	52,700	51,900	0.9	2.5
Accommodation	9,300	8,900	9,100	4.5	2.2
Food Services & Drinking Places	43,900	43,800	42,800	0.2	2.6
<b>Other Services</b>	19,600	19,300	19,100	1.6	2.6
<b>Total Government</b>	110,000	117,700	109,700	-6.5	0.3
Federal Government	14,300	14,000	14,400	2.1	-0.7
State & Local Government	95,700	103,700	95,300	-7.7	0.4
State Government	27,000	27,100	27,900	-0.4	-3.2
State Government Education	11,300	11,400	12,400	-0.9	-8.9
State Government Administration	15,700	15,700	15,500	0.0	1.3
Local Government	68,700	76,600	67,400	-10.3	1.9
Local Government Education	32,500	39,100	31,300	-16.9	3.8
Local Government Administration	33,100	34,400	33,000	-3.8	0.3
Local Government Tribes	3,100	3,100	3,100	0.0	0.0

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\* Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State Table 5: Economic Indicators

	Jul 2006	Jun 2006	Jul 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE <sup>(1)</sup>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	756,500	757,600	741,900	-0.1	2.0
Unemployment	27,500	26,800	27,600	2.6	-0.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.5	3.7		
Total Employment	729,000	730,800	714,300	-0.2	2.1
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	766,300	767,400	744,300	-0.1	3.0
Unemployment	24,600	24,300	24,700	1.2	-0.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.2	3.3		
Total Employment	741,700	743,100	719,600	-0.2	3.1
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE <sup>(2)</sup>	4.6	4.6	5.0		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX <sup>(2)</sup>					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	199.2	198.6	191.0	0.3	4.3
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	203.5	202.9	195.4	0.3	4.1
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	49,460	48,190	45,710	2.6	8.2
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	360	360	360	0.0	0.0
Hired Workers	39,360	38,090	35,610	3.3	10.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<b>Claims Activities</b>					
Initial Claims <sup>(3)</sup>	5,752	5,119	5,785	12.4	-0.6
Weeks Claimed <sup>(4)</sup>	35,181	30,521	39,794	15.3	-11.6
<b>Benefit Payment Activities<sup>(5)</sup></b>					
Weeks Compensated	24,103	24,270	31,580	-0.7	-23.7
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$5,182,726	\$5,291,423	\$6,791,429	-2.1	-23.7
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$215.02	\$218.02	\$215.05	-1.4	0.0
Covered Employers	48,611	48,182	45,426	0.9	7.0
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months <sup>(4)</sup>	\$114,425,450	\$116,034,153	\$136,297,021	-1.4	-16.0
(1) Preliminary Estimate					
(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics					
(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims					
(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent					
(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities					



# Panhandle News

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

Kootenai County's nonfarm payroll jobs grew a solid, if not dramatic, 4.2 percent between July 2005 and July 2006. Although signs suggest construction may be slowing, employment in July was 650 jobs above the already extremely high level of 12 months before. The educational and health services sector was 360 jobs ahead of its July 2005 level because of the February opening of Northern Idaho Advanced Care acute care hospital and the expansion of a variety of health care and social assistance providers. The professional and business services sector added 300 jobs mostly at call centers, corporate headquarters and security firms. Given the high demand for workers right now, one might expect the temporary employment agencies to be expanding. But they have not been able to because they too are having trouble finding and retaining workers. Retail stores added 260 jobs during the 12-month period as they expand to serve the county's growing population and the increasing number of tourists. The increase in tourism also generated 150 jobs in the hospitality sector.

The rest of the Panhandle also is seeing its job growth slow from the very rapid rates enjoyed in 2005. Falling lumber prices already have caused two mill layoffs in Benewah and Boundary counties and have the potential to cause more havoc in the forest products industry. Tourism is up throughout the region, but higher gasoline prices and rising housing costs are constraining spending by local residents. With the exception of Bonner County, manufacturing is not expected to be a significant source of new jobs this year. Quest Aircraft, Litehouse Foods, Unicep Packaging and Encoder Products are among the growing manufacturers that

Panhandle Table 1: Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment Kootenai County

	Jul 2006*	Jun 2006	Jul 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	69,700	69,410	68,090	0.4	2.4
Unemployed	2,720	2,610	2,780	4.2	-2.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.8	4.1		
Total Employment	66,980	66,800	65,310	0.3	2.6
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,330	70,550	69,090	1.1	3.2
Unemployed	2,220	2,180	2,300	1.8	-3.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	3.1	3.3		
Total Employment	69,110	68,370	66,790	1.1	3.5
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	56,180	56,230	53,910	-0.1	4.2
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	11,420	11,310	10,670	1.0	7.0
Natural Resources & Mining	520	500	470	4.0	10.6
Construction	6,220	6,130	5,590	1.5	11.3
Manufacturing	4,680	4,680	4,610	0.0	1.5
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,020	1,030	1,050	-1.0	-2.9
Other Manufacturing	3,660	3,650	3,560	0.3	2.8
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	44,760	44,920	43,240	-0.4	3.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	10,100	10,000	9,780	1.0	3.3
Wholesale Trade	1,430	1,420	1,360	0.7	5.1
Retail Trade	7,630	7,550	7,370	1.1	3.5
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,040	1,030	1,050	1.0	-1.0
Information	1,000	990	1,020	1.0	-2.0
Financial Activities	2,930	2,930	2,740	0.0	6.9
Professional & Business Services	6,510	6,460	6,210	0.8	4.8
Educational & Health Services	5,600	5,590	5,240	0.2	6.9
Leisure & Hospitality	8,410	8,050	8,260	4.5	1.8
Other Services	1,620	1,510	1,620	7.3	0.0
Government Education	2,730	3,440	2,570	-20.6	6.2
Government Administration	5,130	5,230	5,100	-1.9	0.6
Government Tribes	730	720	700	1.4	4.3

\* Preliminary estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

will make Bonner County the exception. Construction activity is at record levels in all of the Panhandle counties, but most counties are likely to see significant reductions in construction activity over the coming year.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Affordable Housing for the Local Work Force

With the rapid run-up in housing prices the Panhandle has experienced, many communities are increasingly concerned about affordability. Local leaders fear young families and others in the labor force



will be forced to leave their communities because they are unable to afford homes there. The Silver Valley Economic Development Corp. has been leading a community discussion on housing affordability issues in Shoshone County for two years. The city of Coeur d'Alene, Lake City Development Corp. — the redevelopment agency for the lake and river districts in Coeur d'Alene — and the Idaho Housing and Finance Association recently gave \$45,000 to Denver-based BBC Research & Consulting to assess where affordable housing should and could be developed. The city of Sandpoint is considering working with the association to pay for a similar housing assessment there.

#### **Benewah County**

- Potlatch Corp., owner of the St. Maries River Railroad, recently started to repair the trestle over Benewah Lake. The trestle collapsed April 24, cutting off rail access. The work is scheduled to be completed in November.
- Plummer, whose 1,000 residents live next to U.S. Highway 95 at the heart of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, has imposed a six-month moratorium on new sewer hookups after the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality denied the city the right to extend a main service line. The department cited a lack of capacity in the city's sewage treatment plant. The city hopes to build a new plant as early as 2007. But the \$7.7 million expansion project would allow it to add only about 50 new hookups, well short of accommodating all the housing developments proposed earlier this year.
- The 1,900-member Coeur d'Alene Tribe recently diversified its business portfolio by purchasing two businesses.
- In July, it acquired majority ownership of HearthBread Bakehouse, a bakery in Spokane that makes a wide variety of pastries and fresh and frozen breads. About 10 percent of its sales are made directly to retail customers, and the other 90 percent are made to restaurants and food services for hospitals, schools and other institutions. Currently, HearthBread employs 40 people, but it plans to expand to 100 in a few years.
- Earlier this year, Berg Integrated, a steel fabricator in Coeur d'Alene employing 10 people, told Kootenai County business recruiter Jobs Plus that it needed a larger location and a cash infusion to expand. Jobs Plus introduced Berg's owners to the tribe, and the tribe bought a majority stake in the company in July. By the end of this summer, Berg will move into a 50,000 square-foot facility in the

tribe's business park in Plummer that once housed a strawboard plant. Tribal ownership makes Berg more competitive for government contracts. By moving to the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, Berg will also be able to tap into federal contracting opportunities for small companies in economically distressed areas. The tribe believes Berg Integrated Systems has the potential to expand to 250 workers over the next several years.

- Further diversification and expansion may be on the way. The tribal council is in the conceptual stage of developing another business park along U.S. Highway 95 north of Plummer, which it hopes to fill with light manufacturers.

#### **Bonner County**

- Brad Golphennee and George Kiselica recently opened Sandpoint Real Estate Services which looks after homes while their owners are absent. Given the enormous increase in second homes in Bonner County, the business is a natural. It provides security checks, lawn care, maintenance, housekeeping and snow removal. When owners are coming to stay, Sandpoint Real Estate Services will clean the house, stock groceries and pick up owners at the Spokane airport.

#### **Kootenai County**

- The overwhelming popularity of its three-year-old Boulder Beach Water Park has convinced Silverwood Theme Park to add a second wave pool, build a water slide large enough for an entire family to ride together and provide more space for the crowds enjoying the water park. Silverwood also plans to replace its septic system with a sewage treatment plant, which would allow it to add a hotel and golf course in 2008 or 2009. About 600 people work in the summer at the theme park 20 miles north of Coeur d'Alene on U.S. Highway 95.
- Hagadone Corp., the owner of the Coeur d'Alene Press and five other newspapers in the Panhandle, recently broke ground on an \$8 million, 25,000 square-foot, high-tech production facility just north of the Coeur d'Alene Press office in downtown Coeur d'Alene. Rapid circulation growth of the papers led to the decision to purchase high-speed, state-of-the-art printing equipment. The Hagadone newspapers in the Panhandle include the Shoshone County News Press, Post Falls Press, Bonner County Daily Bee, Bonners Ferry Herald and Priest River Times.
- Kootenai County recently welcomed a research and development facility moving from Santa Rosa,

Calif. Twenty-five years ago Ray Flugger patented a design that improved the efficiency while reducing the noise of exhaust systems, and he founded Flowmaster in Santa Rosa. This summer, with help from Jobs Plus, the nonprofit economic development organization, Flowmaster moved its research and development facility to Warren K. Industrial Park in Hayden. In June, Flowmaster opened a shop where it sells and installs exhaust systems. Then this summer, the company completed construction of its research and development center there. Flowmaster currently employs 10 people in Hayden and soon will hire four more.

- The Rathdrum city council conditionally approved the annexation of 205 acres for where Pleasant Valley Properties LLC plans to build a mile-long horse racetrack with stadium seating, performance arena, stables, an interpretive center, an RV park and 65 acres of single- and multifamily housing. The company also is considering building a motel. Pleasant Valley Properties says that the horse-centered development could create up to 200 jobs and could be hosting dressage, jumping and other competitive events by 2008. The racetrack, which probably would operate about 60 days a year, would be a later phase of the development. It would be Rathdrum's first significant recreational facility. The council made it clear that it conditioned the approval of the housing development on the development of the racetrack.
- A Hyundai dealership may soon join Select Subaru, Midway Nissan and Knudtsen Chevrolet along the I-90 corridor in Post Falls. Findlay Automotive Group, based in Nevada, hopes to construct a \$2.7 million, 18,000 square-foot building on 3.5 acres there. The Findlay Hyundai dealership would contain up to 150 spots for new vehicles and 100 for used vehicles. Initially, about 30 people will work there. If Findlay can get the permits it needs quickly, the dealership could open by New Year's Day.
- A product developed by NASA called Spectrachrome has many fun uses since it changes colors in the sun so Craig and Christine Ely re-

cently opened Del Sol in downtown Coeur d'Alene to sell Spectrachrome nail polish, jewelry, t-shirts and accessories.

- The restaurant choices in Coeur d'Alene continue to expand with the Breakfast Nook, serving breakfast and lunch; Fiesta Mexicana, an authentic Mexican restaurant; Anthony's Midtown Bistro, owned by Culinary Institute of American chef Anthony Hall; and Fort Ground Grill, a restaurant and bar.
- Two new stores recently joined the 339 stores already located in Coeur d'Alene. Susie Q's boutique sells high-quality antiques, furniture and household accessories, and Coeur d'Alene Olive Oil Co. sells a wide variety of olive oils, olives and other foodstuffs.
- Another sign of Harrison's reinvigoration is the recent opening of O'Susana's Design Studio, a full-service hair and nail salon in the ground floor of the historic Harrison building. Owned by stylist Susan Ireland, the salon also shows works by local artists.

#### Shoshone County

- About 70 people attended a recent meeting about how local businesses can best respond to the opening of a Wal-Mart Supercenter early next year near Smelterville. Local businesses will have to compete not only for customers but for employees. The Smelterville Wal-Mart is expected to employ about 200 people.
- The Shoshone Mining and Smelting Museum in Kellogg recently celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary while the Staff House it is located in celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Built in 1906, the two-story Staff House originally was the home of the manager of the Bunker Hill Mine. After Bunker Hill closed in 1982, it sat vacant for four years until it was reopened as a museum celebrating the fascinating history of Silver Valley's mining sector.

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# North Central Idaho News

CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

July's unemployment rate held steady at June's rate of 4.6 percent. Even though the total number of jobs remained the same, there is one industry which is showing signs of growth. In manufacturing, the sector that includes the manufacture of welded jet boats and ammunition, has recorded good employment numbers over the past six months. Companies in this sector are reporting that markets are good and the future is optimistic.

## SPECIAL TOPIC:

### Unemployment Insurance

Besides helping unemployed individuals and families transition from one job to another, unemployment insurance acts as an automatic economic stabilizer. When a business has to lay an employee off, unemployment benefits offset some of the effects of that worker losing his paycheck and, in the case of major layoffs, limits the decline in spending power a community experiences. Unemployment insurance also promotes stability by making it possible for employers to retain workers during the off-season or a short downturn. Many seasonal industries would find it much more difficult to attract and retain employees if their workers could not rely on those weekly benefits to help support them through the off-season. In north central Idaho, \$8.1 million was paid out in benefits for the fiscal year that ended June 30, down \$1.3 million from the previous year. For a breakdown of dollars paid and numbers of weeks paid in the region in 2006 and 2005, see North Central Idaho Table 2 on page 11.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Clearwater County

- Clearwater Crossing, a new RV Park in Orofino, opened in July off U.S.

North Central Idaho Table 1: Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	Jul 2006*	Jun 2006	Jul 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,750	28,750	29,440	0.0	-2.3
Unemployment	1,330	1,330	1,470	0.0	-9.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.6	5.0		
Total Employment	27,420	27,420	27,970	0.0	-2.0
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,570	28,660	29,090	-0.3	-1.8
Unemployment	1,220	1,240	1,350	-1.6	-9.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.3	4.6		
Total Employment	27,350	27,420	27,740	-0.3	-1.4
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	26,750	27,010	27,400	-1.0	-2.4
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,470	4,400	4,750	1.6	-5.9
Natural Resources & Mining	260	250	220	4.0	18.2
Construction	1,230	1,210	1,510	1.7	-18.5
Manufacturing	2,980	2,940	3,020	1.4	-1.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	550	560	580	-1.8	-5.2
Food Manufacturing	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Paper Manufacturing	1,110	1,110	1,130	0.0	-1.8
Other Manufacturing	1,290	1,240	1,280	4.0	0.8
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	22,280	22,610	22,650	-1.5	-1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,480	5,470	5,420	0.2	1.1
Wholesale Trade	680	690	680	-1.4	0.0
Retail Trade	3,460	3,440	3,490	0.6	-0.9
Utilities	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,250	1,250	1,160	0.0	7.8
Information	450	440	420	2.3	7.1
Financial Activities	1,830	1,830	1,830	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1,630	1,600	1,730	1.9	-5.8
Education & Health Services	4,430	4,440	4,710	-0.2	-5.9
Leisure & Hospitality	2,400	2,400	2,540	0.0	-5.5
Other Services	1,100	1,120	1,130	-1.8	-2.7
Government Education	2,240	2,490	2,100	-10.0	6.7
Government Administration	1,940	2,070	2,030	-6.3	-4.4
Government Tribes	780	750	740	4.0	5.4

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Highway 12. The 50-space park is paved and situated along the Clearwater River. Amenities include water, sewer, electricity and cable hookups. The park has restrooms with showers and a pavilion where groups can gather for barbecues. The park's owner, Brett Pippenger, is happy about how well the park is doing since he has not promoted it much. "That highway is doing me pretty good," Pippenger said. "They see the campers out there and try to locate me." He expects even

North Central Idaho Table 2: Amount of Unemployment Insurance Payments						
County	Number of Weeks Paid			Dollar Amount Paid		
	State Fiscal Year			State Fiscal Year		
	2006	2005	Change	2006	2005	Change
Clearwater	6,307	7,293	-986	\$1,556,609	\$1,760,966	-\$204,357
Idaho	9,143	9,752	-609	\$2,129,697	\$2,215,953	-\$86,256
Latah	7,691	8,678	-987	\$1,873,730	\$2,086,046	-\$212,316
Lewis	479	716	-237	\$113,184	\$165,906	-\$52,722
Nez Perce	11,521	14,681	-3,160	\$2,521,816	\$3,279,561	-\$757,745
<b>Total North Central Idaho</b>	<b>35,141</b>	<b>41,120</b>	<b>-5,979</b>	<b>\$8,195,036</b>	<b>\$9,508,432</b>	<b>-\$1,313,396</b>

more business during the coming steelhead and hunting seasons. So far, customers come from many places. Some are out-of-staters building homes or looking for property. Others are attending baseball tournaments, weddings or events at the Best Western Lodge at River's Edge. The hotel is owned by other members of the same family, Paul and Lee Pippenger, a husband-and-wife team. Pippenger believes the properties work together to attract visitors. "It's inviting people to come into Orofino, which is what we need."

#### Latah County

- Valley Transit, which has routes in both Lewiston and Moscow, has started service between the two cities. The route will take 40 minutes and costs \$5 each way. Because of limited space, seats are available on a reservation basis. For people who go to a job or attend classes in the opposite city, this new service will help in their daily commute. With oil prices escalating, it makes a lot of sense. The project came together when Valley Transit secured a \$65,000 inter-city grant. Part of the grant money was used to pay for the new bus.
- Wi BioFuels is undecided on the location of its proposed biodiesel plant. Until recently, the company was considering the Port of Wilma near Clarkston, Wash., but now it is looking at the former site of Potlatch Corp.'s lumber mill in Potlatch, Idaho. Wi BioFuels plans to build a plant that will create an estimated 41 jobs and process 5 million to 15 million gallons of biodiesel per year. The proposed plant represents a \$21 million to \$40 million investment in the area over the next several years. Building costs make up the majority of that projection. The company wants to lower those costs as much as possible and find a central location for growers to ship their crops. Biodiesel is derived from vegetable oil from crops such as soybeans, canola and mustard seed. It burns cleaner and with fewer emissions than petroleum-based diesel fuel. According to the company, the Potlatch site is more central than the port area. Producers would not have to ship their

materials down the grade to the river, and the Potlatch site has rail access in place. The company was originally attracted to Washington when the state Legislature passed a law that requires all diesel sold in the state to contain at least 2 percent biodiesel. The alternative energy bill is designed to jump-start the biodiesel industry in Washington state.

- The presidents of the University of Idaho and neighboring Washington State University, in conjunction with the cities of Moscow and Pullman and the counties of Whitman and Latah, are developing a "Palouse Knowledge Corridor" between Moscow and Pullman. It would not be a corridor of new buildings and parking lots but a passageway for combined research and brain power to be channeled into attracting sustained economic development. The idea is to form a partnership to work toward becoming a super region that utilizes its unique resources of research capacity, brain power, quality of life and natural beauty to attract innovative companies that will fit into the community and offer high-end jobs. The presidents advised against marketing the area as a cheap place for companies to locate. They said it should be promoted as a place to bring jobs and capital because it is more productive.
- Moscow city employees and those who contract with the city will now earn at least \$10.25 an hour. The City Council passed a resolution that ensures full-time city employees will be paid a so-called living wage. The wage also applies to employees of businesses with city contracts worth \$25,000 or more that employ more than 10 people. "We want to make sure no one working for the city is paid so little that they can't support themselves or a family," Councilwoman Linda Pall said. "We want to make sure your tax dollars and other city revenue is not used to unintentionally exploit our workers in the city of Moscow." Councilman Bob Stout said Moscow is the first city in the state to enact a living wage. "The minimum wage in Idaho is embarrassingly low," he said. "We should be combating negative social problems in the community." Janitorial services that contract with the city likely would

have to increase employee wages, but many contracting companies, like the Idaho Transportation Department, already pay their workers a living wage, Moscow Mayor Nancy Chaney said.

- The Federal Aviation Administration has approved a waiver allowing a larger class of airplane to land at the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport. Horizon Air, the airport's only commercial carrier, once brought the 70-seat Q400 plane into the Pullman-Moscow airport, but the FAA decided in 2004 the runway did not meet safety standards for a plane that big. Horizon was left with only the 37-seat Dash-8 plane to serve the region. Horizon has no concrete plans to use the Q400 for daily scheduled flights, but it wanted to use the bigger plane for its "Coug Air" flights that bring sports enthusiasts to Pullman for Washington State University events like the Apple Cup football game, said Dan Russo, the airline's director of marketing and communications. In the long term, Horizon is slowly replacing its Dash-8 planes with Q400s. The airline owns 20 Q400s and has 13 more on order, Russo said. The planes will go to larger markets first but could come to Pullman if enough tickets are sold. The FAA was concerned about the distance between the taxiway and the runway. The taxiway is the area where planes wait before using the runway for takeoff. It sits 200 feet to the north of the runway — too close to meet federal safety standards. Work on the runway safety area finished in October, but because of the topography of the surrounding land and the location of the airport terminal, nothing could be done about its distance from the taxiway. The FAA paid \$1.5 million, or about 95 percent of the cost to widen the runway safety area. The waiver approved by the FAA allows not only the Q400 but all Category CIII airplanes to use the airport. That includes the Airbus A319 used for athletic charter flights and the Boeing 737 jet.

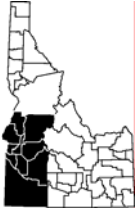
#### Nez Perce and Asotin Counties

- Potlatch Corp.'s pulp and paperboard division bounced back in this year's second quarter, posting operating income of \$3.9 million and capping what

was a profitable quarter for Lewiston's largest employer. The division, one of five at the Lewiston plant, employs 790, more than any other Potlatch division in Lewiston. It did not break even for 3 1/2 years and then rebounded in the middle of 2004 before losing money again in 2005 and the first quarter of this year. Stronger paperboard and pulp pricing as well as quality and production improvements primarily in Idaho were responsible for the upward trend, said Mike Covey, Potlatch's chief executive officer. Net revenues for the second quarter were \$415 million compared with \$368 million for the same period last year. New coaters installed on a paper machine will allow Potlatch's Lewiston plant to make coated paperboard sheets that accept high-quality printing on two sides, not just one. Potlatch plans to sell the new product for brochures or in-store retail displays, a strategy which will "significantly enhance the profitability of our Idaho mill," Covey said. The gains came in spite of persisting high costs for energy, freight and chemicals. Potlatch has purchased about 50 percent of the gas it will need for the rest of the year for pulp and paperboard and consumer tissue products. "Now we know we have half of our gas locked in at a known price level," said Mark Benson, Potlatch's vice president of public affairs. All of Potlatch's other divisions showed operating incomes in the second quarter — consumer tissue products at \$7 million, resource at \$9.8 million, wood products at \$3.5 million and land sales and development at \$1.5 million. Operating income indicates a division's performance before certain expenses are deducted. Shipments and prices were higher in consumer tissue products than the same time last year, leading to a record \$117 million in revenue for the quarter. It was the first time Potlatch has sold more than \$100 million of tissue products in any quarter.

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# Southwestern Idaho News

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area in July remained unchanged from April, May and June at 3 percent and was 0.3 of a percentage point lower than July 2005. The civilian labor force increased by a modest 800 people, and total employment essentially kept pace, rising by 700. It is quite possible the Boise area has maximized its existing labor pool, and its lowest rate of 2.8 percent in January will not be matched again.

In recent months growth in the labor force and total employment has been slowing, and unemployment has remained steady. The economy appears to be leveling out at a time when employers are having trouble finding the additional workers they could definitely use. On the flip side, however, wages are stagnating in the metropolitan area so if employers are going to entice qualified workers they are going to have to raise wages. The area is currently experiencing a shortage of skilled labor in many occupations.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in the Boise area experienced a seasonal decline in July. Payrolls fell 500 largely due to schools letting out for the summer. Construction continued its upward movement, growing 2.6 percent.

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	195,586	5,391	2.8	190,195
Adams	2,001	151	7.6	1,850
Boise	3,923	123	3.1	3,799
Canyon	81,757	2,953	3.6	78,804
Elmore	11,436	555	4.9	10,881
Gem	7,525	286	3.8	7,239
Owyhee	4,692	121	2.6	4,571
Payette	10,212	525	5.1	9,687
Valley	5,673	206	3.6	5,467
Washington	5,093	213	4.2	4,880
Statewide	756,455	27,503	3.6	728,952

	Jul 2006*	Jun 2006	Jul 2005	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	293,500	292,700	285,000	0.3	3.0
Unemployment	8,900	8,800	9,500	1.1	-6.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	3.0	3.3		
Total Employment	284,600	283,900	275,500	0.2	3.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	296,800	295,800	285,800	0.3	3.8
Unemployment	8,700	8,600	9,400	1.2	-7.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	2.9	3.3		
Total Employment	288,100	287,200	276,400	0.3	4.2
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	269,500	270,000	249,700	-0.2	7.9
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	54,600	54,000	51,400	1.1	6.2
<i>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</i>	23,800	23,200	21,400	2.6	11.2
Construction	23,500	22,900	21,000	2.6	11.9
<i>Manufacturing</i>	30,800	30,800	30,000	0.0	2.7
Durable Goods	24,600	24,600	23,900	0.0	2.9
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,200	2,300	2,300	-4.3	-4.3
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,500	1,500	1,400	0.0	7.1
Machinery Manufacturing	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,100	14,100	14,300	0.0	-1.4
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	2,400	2,500	2,100	-4.0	14.3
Other Durable Goods	3,200	3,000	2,600	6.7	23.1
Nondurable Goods	6,200	6,200	6,100	0.0	1.6
Food Manufacturing	4,200	4,200	4,300	0.0	-2.3
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,300	1,300	1,100	0.0	18.2
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	214,900	216,000	198,300	-0.5	8.4
<i>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</i>	53,500	53,100	49,200	0.8	8.7
Trade	45,700	45,400	42,000	0.7	8.8
Wholesale Trade	12,700	12,600	11,600	0.8	9.5
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	7,500	7,500	7,100	0.0	5.6
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	3,600	3,600	3,600	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	33,000	32,800	30,400	0.6	8.6
Food & Beverage Stores	4,600	4,600	4,400	0.0	4.5
General Merchandise Stores	6,400	6,300	6,100	1.6	4.9
All Other Retail Trade	22,000	21,900	19,900	0.5	10.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,800	7,700	7,200	1.3	8.3
Utilities	600	600	600	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	7,200	7,100	6,600	1.4	9.1
<i>Information</i>	5,300	5,300	5,300	0.0	0.0
Telecommunications	2,500	2,500	2,200	0.0	13.6
<i>Financial Activities</i>	14,900	14,900	8,700	0.0	71.3
Finance & Insurance	10,300	10,300	4,600	0.0	123.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,600	4,600	4,100	0.0	12.2
<i>Professional &amp; Business Services</i>	38,800	38,600	37,800	0.5	2.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	11,200	11,100	10,800	0.9	3.7
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,900	5,900	5,700	0.0	3.5
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	21,700	21,600	21,300	0.5	1.9
<i>Educational &amp; Health Services</i>	31,600	32,000	30,700	-1.3	2.9
Educational Services	2,300	2,800	2,100	-17.9	9.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	29,300	29,200	28,600	0.3	2.4
Hospitals	9,600	9,500	9,200	1.1	4.3
<i>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</i>	24,300	24,000	23,100	1.3	5.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	4,000	3,800	3,400	5.3	17.6
Accommodation & Food Services	20,300	20,200	19,700	0.5	3.0
Accommodation	2,200	2,100	2,100	4.8	4.8
Food Services & Drinking Places	18,100	18,100	17,600	0.0	2.8
<i>Other Services</i>	7,300	7,300	6,400	0.0	14.1
<i>Total Government</i>	39,200	40,800	37,100	-3.9	5.7
Federal Government	5,900	5,900	6,000	0.0	-1.7
State & Local Government	33,300	34,900	31,100	-4.6	7.1
State Government	12,700	12,700	12,700	0.0	0.0
State Government Education	3,700	3,800	3,900	-2.6	-5.1
State Government Administration	9,000	8,900	8,800	1.1	2.3
Local Government	20,600	22,200	18,400	-7.2	12.0
Local Government Education	12,400	13,900	10,700	-10.8	15.9
Local Government Administration	8,200	8,300	7,700	-1.2	6.5

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

The additional 600 jobs brought the annual total of new construction jobs to 2,500. The construction industry continues to be the driving force behind the robust Boise economy. There were over 1,400 construction jobs in the area on the Idaho Commerce & Labor job availability listing. The July 2006 civilian labor force and total employment figures for all 10 counties in southwestern Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2 on page 13.

### **Metropolitan Boise**

The number of building permits issued in July was down from a year ago as was the number of homes sold during the month in the metropolitan area. There are some logical factors at play in the slowing housing market, and a major one has been the escalation in median housing prices over the last year – 30 percent in Ada County and 35 percent in Canyon County. At the same time, wage increases have lagged significantly, in some cases not even keeping up with inflation. Housing is becoming unaffordable for an increasing number of area workers. Also, the housing market in California and other states has slowed somewhat, and it's taking longer to sell homes in other states in anticipation of relocating to southwestern Idaho. In addition, interest rates in July were nearing 7 percent, and 30-year mortgage rates reached a four-year high during July.

In Meridian, August residential building permits were up from July. Through Aug. 25, the city issued 133 new residential permits compared to 59 in July, the most permits issued in any August in 15 years except for 2004 and 2005. It would be essentially impossible to maintain the pace of construction experienced last year for any extended period.

Commercial construction activity is still robust. There are big box retail buildings and road projects in progress all over the area with the majority in Canyon County, where construction activity in the metropolitan area appears to be headed. Construction activity has followed prices and population growth westward, first Boise, then Meridian and now Nampa and Caldwell. Escalating land prices in Ada County are pushing projects toward the less expensive land to the west, where the number of building permits is up in 2006 over 2005. The median home price in both Nampa and Caldwell is much less than in Ada County.

### **AREA DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **Boise MSA**

- July marked the second straight month that the cost of living in the Boise area increased at a pace of at least double the national rate of inflation. The national Consumer Price Index rose four-tenths of a percentage point while the Boise cost of living, as calculated by Wells Fargo, increased a full percentage point. Fuel costs drove the increase as they have all year. The price of fuel is up by 11.3 percent over a year ago and is beginning to cause prices in most other sectors of the economy to increase. That is particularly noticeable in the Wells Fargo report. Groceries, eating out and housing costs all increased in July from June. These industries all use large amounts of fuel from farming to trucking to construction.
- The Boise Airport continued the prosperity it has been enjoying over the last year and a half. Through the first five months of 2006, the airport reported a 7 percent increase in passenger traffic over year ago levels. Nationally, air travel only posted a 1.3 percent increase.

The robust growth is mostly due to the strength of the metropolitan economy and the attention it has attracted nationally, which brings in more travelers.

- Meridian will be the location of Boise State University's newest Small Business Development Center. The Meridian Development Corp. will be providing office space, training rooms and computers free of charge to both the small business center and to businesses located in Meridian.
- In another blow to the manufacturing industry, Tyson Fresh Meats Inc. is closing its slaughterhouse operation near Kuna by mid October, putting 270 people out of work. According to a spokesperson for the company, most workers earn between \$9 and \$16 per hour.
- Micron and Photronics recently broke ground for their new building housing their joint venture in photomask production. Photomasks are used in the manufacturing various memory products, which Micron also makes. The new building is located adjacent to the large Micron campus in Boise. It is estimated the new venture will add 125 manufacturing jobs.
- The first World Potato Congress held in the United States recently ended in southwestern Idaho. Hosted at the Boise Centre on the Grove, approximately 900 people from 40 countries attended the congress from Aug. 20 to 26. According to organizers, each out-of-state visitor spent an average of \$238 per day on lodging, meals, transportation and other items, making a one-time local financial impact of approximately \$1.5 million. That does not include the impact of the farm show in Wilder Aug. 24-26.

#### **Adams County**

- A new planned community, Serene Meadows, was recently approved by the New Meadows City Council. The subdivision will be located in south New Meadows with 167 home sites. Eighty-eight are scheduled to be affordable housing for area wage earners. These new affordable homes could help alleviate the shortage of construction workers, teachers and service workers in the Valley/Adams county area, where prices have skyrocketed with the development of the Tamarack Resort in Valley County. Having affordable housing available should help area employers recruit since housing is one obstacle most new residents to the area are struggling to afford.

#### **Elmore County**

- Glens Ferry potato processor Idahoan Foods has been sold and is becoming Idaho Processing Co.
- A \$17.6 million major renovation and expansion bond was recently defeated by voters in Elmore County. The bond would have financed jail additions and renovations totaling 54,000 square feet.

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# South Central Idaho News

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Twin Falls/Jerome Micropolitan Statistical Area was 3.2 percent in July, unchanged from June but one-tenth of a percentage point lower than July 2005. The civilian labor force grew 5.5 percent year over year. But nonfarm payroll jobs were down slightly from July 2005, the first time there has been any decline in well over a year.

From mid-2005 to mid-2006, the region experienced meteoric, almost uncontrolled growth. Light manufacturing grew tremendously with the arrival of new manufacturers such as Jayco Inc., Kiefer Built and Hilex Poly. Low mortgage interest rates coupled with low unemployment worked to increase the number of new housing starts to record-shattering levels, maintaining the strength of construction. Market-driven sectors such as retail and services rose in proportion to increased demand and greater discretionary income from better wages and high consumer confidence.

But in July the economy started to catch up with itself. Sectors that had seen huge increases began stabilizing and in some cases declining. This should not be viewed with alarm but actually with some relief because the economy seems to be settling in. Analysis is now possible to develop strategies to ensure a good supply of workers for new and existing employers. Already, as a result of the huge demand in the construction sector, the College of Southern Idaho has developed a curriculum to train qualified construction workers for future projects. The school has also received a grant to improve offerings in health professions for nurses, radiology technicians and therapists.

South Central Idaho Table 1: Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment—Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	Jul 2006*	Jun 2006	Jul 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	51,340	50,890	48,680	0.9	5.5
Unemployment	1,670	1,640	1,620	1.8	3.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.2	3.3		
Total Employment	49,670	49,250	47,060	0.9	5.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	51,610	51,340	48,530	0.5	6.3
Unemployment	1,590	1,530	1,560	3.9	1.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	2.8	3.2		
Total Employment	50,020	49,810	46,970	0.4	6.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	40,150	39,880	40,320	0.7	-0.4
Goods-Providing Industries	7,100	6,880	6,450	3.2	10.1
Natural Resources & Mining	40	40	40	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,490	2,380	2,080	4.6	19.7
Manufacturing	4,570	4,460	4,330	2.5	5.5
Food Manufacturing	2,500	2,450	2,480	2.0	0.8
Other Manufacturing	2,070	2,010	1,840	3.0	12.5
Service-Providing Industries	33,000	33,000	33,870	0.0	-2.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,070	10,020	10,030	0.5	0.4
Wholesale Trade	1,930	1,910	1,690	1.0	14.2
Retail Trade	5,790	5,760	6,060	0.5	-4.5
Utilities	160	160	180	0.0	-11.1
Transportation & Warehousing	2,210	2,210	2,100	0.0	5.2
Information	610	610	600	0.0	1.7
Financial Activities	1,780	1,780	1,780	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	5,010	5,010	5,290	0.0	-5.3
Educational & Health Services	3,550	3,550	4,510	0.0	-21.3
Leisure & Hospitality	3,400	3,400	3,080	0.0	10.4
Other Services	1,370	1,370	1,330	0.0	3.0
Government Education	3,210	3,210	3,510	0.0	-8.5
Government Administration	4,030	4,030	3,740	0.0	7.8

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

The outlook for the south central Idaho economy in the short term remains very bright. Unemployment should continue to be low through 2006 and into the first quarter of 2007. A leveling off of construction jobs is expected, but demand should remain very strong since many contractors are booked into early 2007. Light manufacturing demand will also continue to be strong. Jayco is planning an expansion in Twin Falls that should result in over 100 new jobs. In the Mini-Cassia area, Dutchmen Manufacturing will be opening a new recreational vehicle assembly plant that should result in about 200 new jobs. Retail and services should continue to ride high on consumer confidence. There is some concern that high fuel prices will cut into consumers' discretionary income, especially those who commute some distance to work. This will especially affect such big-ticket items



as new automobiles, home appliances and even new homes. Tourism should remain above average as long as world events do not interfere greatly with air travel. This region's tourists mostly travel by ground. Thus far, fuel prices have had a limited effect, especially on local residents making weekend outings. Sun Valley should see good tourism numbers if the snow year is good.

One area of concern is in agriculture and water rights. It was thought that an agreement had been reached between groundwater and surface water users. However, a judge voided the deal, and the Idaho Department of Water Resources ordered groundwater users to provide 26,700 acre-feet of water to surface water users, based on water right seniority. The affected pumpers must submit a curtailment plan that totals the 26,700 acre-feet target or face their wells being closed down. This affects approximately 40 dairies and three municipalities. The cities of Jerome, Wendell and Shoshone faced curtailments ranging from 11 percent of municipal usage to 46 percent. This is worrisome both from a standpoint of existing usage and future growth. Failure to resolve this continuing dispute once and for all can affect not only housing plans but also economic development potential.

The future for agriculture in general is somewhat mixed. Currently, lower demand has driven potato prices down, and there is concern that cheap sugar cane will be imported from Central America under the Central American Free Trade Act and drive sugar beet prices down. Otherwise, commodity prices look average to above average. Demand for dairy products continues to be stable. The reopening of the Japanese market to U.S. beef bodes well for that sector. As always, a good snow pack is needed to continue to reverse the effects of a six-year drought.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Twin Falls County

- On Aug. 29, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Congressman Mike Simpson paid a visit to the Magic Valley Office of Idaho

Commerce & Labor, meeting with the office management team, the regional economist and the department's legislative liaison. He was given a tour of the facilities and shown how the office takes care of its customers and fulfills the department's mission. He learned about all of the services offered as well as office facilities such as the computer laboratory, conference room and interview rooms and their roles in serving existing businesses and assisting economic development projects. He was briefed on the construction of the new office in Twin Falls. After the office tour, staff accompanied Simpson on a tour of Hilex Poly Inc. in Jerome. Hilex Poly is one of the largest plastic bag manufacturers in the nation. The company came to Jerome and located in the former Moore North American building across from Jerome Cheese in the Jerome Industrial Park. The timing was extremely fortuitous because Moore North American had just closed and displaced over 100 workers. Hilex Poly hired many of those workers and has actually expanded its work force to about 150. Congressman Simpson was impressed by the technology, including robotics, and the highly trained workers making extremely good wages with benefits.

- The new Idaho Commerce & Labor office in Twin Falls should be completed in October. The new location is virtually across the street from the College of Southern Idaho and will be very convenient in the department's partnership with the college.

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# Southeastern Idaho News

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA & POWER COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The busy summer season typically creates jobs in retail trade, tourism, construction and the service sector in industries such as agriculture, landscaping, parks and recreation and home improvement. Major road construction projects have also added jobs. This year there were fluctuations in the manufacturing industry as Ballard Kimberly-Clark continued to reduce staff ahead of closing early next year. At the same time, Heinz Frozen Foods continued to increase production and staff. As is typical for this time of year, temporary staffing agencies increased employment to cover seasonal jobs in a variety of industries. While it has recently become a bit more difficult for employers to find workers, it has been a good problem for the area. Many workers have been able to take advantage of promotional opportunities to improve their economic conditions. The season also typically sees reductions in education jobs as schools closed in June and ceased to employ as many people during the summer.

What appeared to be a slow fire season went up in flames toward the end of July and early part of August. More than 600 firefighters have fought fires throughout Bingham, Power and Oneida counties. Fire crews were attacking two major fires in Bingham and Power counties when lightening storms started eight new fires in the area. The largest, the Crystal fire, burned more than 190,000 acres. Fire officials called in firefighters from New Mexico to help local fire crews as winds thwarted containment. A total of eight fires were reported in the Shelley, Aberdeen, Rockland, Arbon Valley and Holbrook areas of southeastern Idaho. About half of the region's fires, including Crystal, were contained after burning nearly 23,000 acres, damaging crops, threatening livestock and major power lines and destroying some agricultural buildings.

## AREA WELCOMES EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

The area welcomed two new education leaders: Arthur Vailais, president of Idaho State University, and Mary Vagner, superintendent of the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District. Both bring a philosophy of openness with patrons and a connection to community. In their first weeks on the job, both leaders met rigorous schedules but spent

Southeastern Idaho Table 1: Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Bannock and Power counties

	Jul 2006*	Jun 2006	Jul 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	44,890	46,270	45,430	-3.0	-1.2
Unemployment	1,770	1,720	1,730	2.9	2.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.7	3.8		
Total Employment	43,120	44,550	43,700	-3.2	-1.3
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,520	45,620	43,700	-4.6	-0.4
Unemployment	1,640	1,590	1,620	3.1	1.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.5	3.7		
Total Employment	41,880	44,030	42,080	-4.9	-0.5
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	39,020	39,470	37,800	-1.1	3.2
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	6,090	6,080	5,850	0.2	4.1
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,720	2,650	2,420	2.6	12.4
Manufacturing	3,340	3,400	3,400	-1.8	-1.8
Food Manufacturing	1,020	1,020	950	0.0	7.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	140	140	150	0.0	-6.7
Machinery Manufacturing	100	100	100	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	2,080	2,140	2,200	-2.8	-5.5
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	32,930	33,390	31,950	-1.4	3.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,680	7,570	7,370	1.5	4.2
Wholesale Trade	1,420	1,400	1,370	1.4	3.6
Retail Trade	4,790	4,700	4,540	1.9	5.5
Utilities	50	50	40	0.0	25.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,420	1,420	1,420	0.0	0.0
Information	770	760	760	1.3	1.3
Financial Activities	2,130	2,130	2,090	0.0	1.9
Professional & Business Services	5,040	5,020	4,670	0.4	7.9
Educational & Health Services	3,400	3,410	3,280	-0.3	3.7
Leisure & Hospitality	3,460	3,510	3,530	-1.4	-2.0
Other Services	1,230	1,240	1,240	-0.8	-0.8
Government Education	4,330	5,250	4,360	-17.5	-0.7
Government Administration	4,890	4,500	4,650	8.7	5.2

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

time with their respective cabinets, faculty, staff, students and community organizations. Vailais appeared on the Quadrangle, meeting and greeting faculty, staff and students at the welcome-back, ice-cream social. Vagner and her cabinet spent the first three days of school in the schools, welcoming back faculty, staff and students. The common theme among the Idaho State University and Pocatello/Chubbuck School District communities is one of a positive new beginning under hands-on leaders.

## AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

### Bannock County

- A partnership between local business owner Dorsey Hill of Bangs Office Products and the Greater Pocatello Chamber of Commerce will result in a new location for the chamber. Hill purchased the former Bannock Col-

lections building on South Main, and the Chamber of Commerce will assist in renovating the building before leasing it from Hill. The chamber hopes to occupy the new office this fall.

- The Southeast Idaho Farmer's Market changed locations this year from Pocatello City Hall parking lot to the railroad parking lot in Old Town Pocatello. The relocation, based on increased sales, has been a successful move for organizers and vendors. Market organizers said the market grossed approximately \$7,500 on Saturdays last year. This year, the market has exceeded \$10,000 in Saturday sales. The Union Pacific Railroad donated an old signal shop near the location of the Farmer's Market to Old Town Pocatello. The building is being renovated by a NeighborhoodWorks America grant from Home Depot. Once renovated, the shop will be used for the Farmers Market and other community events. The relocation of the Farmers Market to the Old Town Pocatello area should spark other economic activity and pedestrian traffic for the businesses there.
- Several stores are under construction at Pocatello Square and plan to open no later than the Christmas shopping season. Staples, an office supply store, opened in early August. Store officials would not disclose the number of employees currently working at the store, but a store that size typically employs more than 25 workers. Officials would disclose that approximately 20 percent of their employees are supervisory or management personnel. The store hired workers in mid-July to stock shelves and prepare the store for its opening. Famous Footwear, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Ross Dress for Less and Sportsman's Warehouse should be completed by October and open prior to the holiday shopping season. While the project has created jobs in construction and industries that serve the construction sector, the opening of the new stores will create more than 100 permanent jobs in the city and decrease the number of people leaving the area to shop elsewhere.
- Pocatello Distribution Partners, the group hired by the city of Pocatello to develop the Pocatello Regional Airport, will begin construction of the first set of six, 10,000 square-foot warehouses at the airport this fall. Work on the second set will begin next spring and the third set in the fall of 2007. The group hopes to finalize plans for larger buildings this fall and begin their construction next spring. The project will set the groundwork for a major distribution center at the airport and could provide a much needed boost for Pocatello air traffic.
- A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the U.S. Highway 30 improvement project between McCammon and Lava Hot Springs. This project is the first in what has been estimated to be the \$1.6 billion Connect Idaho program to upgrade roads throughout Idaho. Gov. Jim Risch operated the backhoe that moved the first shovel of dirt for the project.

#### **Bingham County**

- West Nile virus has struck livestock and people throughout the state. But Bingham County has seen the highest incidence of the mosquito-borne illness in southeastern Idaho. The county has confirmed more

than 32 cases of the virus and has conducted aerial and ground spraying to eliminate mosquitoes and reduce the risk. Idaho currently leads the nation in the number of confirmed cases of the virus at over 300.

- Bridge Street Image beauty salon opened in Blackfoot, offering a full line of hair care services and spa treatments. Owner and stylist Megan Fields is joined in the salon by stylist Alicia Murdock.
- Sartori Foods has acquired the Blackfoot Cheese Co. from Antigo Cheese of Wisconsin. The business employs about 40 people, but the economic impact is far greater. It purchases about 11 million pounds of milk a year from members of the local Snake River Dairyman's Association. The company manufactures several specialty cheeses and expects to grow in the future.
- PBG's restaurant is the first business under construction at the new Gifford Village commercial development near Jensen Grove Lake and the Blackfoot Airport. It should open near the end of November. The restaurant will overlook Jensen Grove Lake and park and will have conference rooms and a full bar. Construction will begin soon on an American Inn. The development's atmosphere, in a park-like setting with views of the lake and airport, will likely provide what its businesses need to survive and thrive in the city, providing it with amenities and jobs.
- A ribbon cutting was held for the \$5 million addition to the National Small Grains Germplasm Research Facility at the University of Idaho Research and Extension Center in Aberdeen. The 12,000 square-foot addition, known as the Advanced Genetics Laboratory, will be used for designing and conducting experiments to breed superior potatoes and grains.

#### **Caribou County**

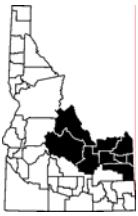
- Chemical Lime's Tenmile Plant, located north of Bancroft, opened in June after being closed for six years. Market conditions have changed, making the production of good-quality lime feasible. The plant resumed operation in June and employs 19 workers. The company plans to begin mining again some time this fall and will employ another 15 workers.

#### **Franklin County**

- Construction has begun on the city of Franklin's first new residential subdivision, Legacy Ranch. More than 200 homes and approximately 150 townhouses are planned for the development, which also includes a retirement community. The city just completed a \$1.8 million water system upgrade in anticipation of the growth. Completion of the subdivision could double the city's population. The project, which began this summer, will take up to seven years.

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# East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The unemployment rate of the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area held steady at 3.1 percent in July, two-tenths of a percentage point below the same time last year as shown in East Central Idaho Table 1. From June to July, jobs in education dropped while construction rose and retail kicked into the summer season. Some warehouses and processing plants reduced labor due to limited product and preparation for a new harvest. However, tourism-related jobs were up in anticipation of the tourist season.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- The Wal-Mart Plaza, just north of the super Wal-Mart in Ammon, now has two tenants with space for several more. The state's first Foot Solutions franchise opened in May, specializing in custom orthotics and diabetic, performance and high-quality comfort shoes, including MBT and Chung Shi brands. Custom-fitting can be done in the store. Many other products are also available for the legs and feet. Primetime Golf /Pro Image has also been at the plaza for several months. The store, owned by long-time Idaho Falls resident Scott Baird, offers a variety of products with an emphasis on golf clothing and equipment. Trade-ins can be applied to new purchases. An in-store simulator is available for customers to test equipment before purchasing. Pro Image specializes in clothing and sports-licensed goods for the NFL, colleges, baseball and basketball teams.
- Broadway Ford is moving its used car lot across the street in Idaho Falls to the former Tesoro/On-the-Go. The old building is being turned into a sales office and bays for light service and repairs. Work should be completed on Nov. 1, providing the company with more customer exposure.

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Jul 2006*	Jun 2006	Jul 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	60,470	61,780	59,800	-2.1	1.1
Unemployment	1,870	1,940	1,740	-3.6	7.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	3.1	2.9		
Total Employment	58,600	59,830	58,060	-2.1	0.9
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	61,810	62,820	60,640	-1.6	1.9
Unemployment	1,640	1,690	1,550	-3.0	5.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7	2.7	2.6		
Total Employment	60,170	61,130	59,100	-1.6	1.8
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	54,650	55,530	52,950	-1.6	3.2
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	7,960	7,850	7,640	1.4	4.2
Natural Resources & Mining	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Construction	4,580	4,450	4,300	2.9	6.5
Manufacturing	3,320	3,340	3,280	-0.6	1.2
Food Manufacturing	1,050	1,080	1,050	-2.8	0.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	280	270	240	3.7	16.7
Machinery Manufacturing	150	150	150	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	1,840	1,840	1,840	0.0	0.0
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	46,690	47,680	45,310	-2.1	3.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,670	13,720	13,120	-0.4	4.2
Wholesale Trade	4,340	4,350	4,060	-0.2	6.9
Retail Trade	7,570	7,640	7,380	-0.9	2.6
Utilities	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1,700	1,670	1,620	1.8	4.9
Information	1,210	1,190	1,140	1.7	6.1
Financial Activities	2,140	2,120	2,080	0.9	2.9
Professional & Business Services	9,680	9,960	9,350	-2.8	3.5
Educational & Health Services	7,030	7,010	6,730	0.3	4.5
Leisure & Hospitality	4,660	4,620	4,600	0.9	1.3
Other Services	2,080	2,020	2,080	3.0	0.0
Government Education	2,690	3,500	2,690	-23.1	0.0
Government Administration	3,530	3,540	3,520	-0.3	0.3

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

- Anytime Fitness, a Minnesota-based franchise operation, will open a 45,000 square-foot facility in a few weeks next to Wally's Car Care Center in Ammon. The workout facility is open around the clock. The four-year-old company is growing very rapidly throughout the nation, and Ammon franchisee Greg Rasmussen called it one of the highest ranking franchise opportunities. Rasmussen calls himself a "gym rat" and is planning to open three more gyms in eastern Idaho.

- Crete Café opened in Idaho Falls in August. The café is operated by Lois Wright and her son Lance Simmons, who set aside part of their Premier Seafood and Meats business to indulge their love for Greek food. Specialties include gyros, baklava and lamb with orange sauce.
- Zion's Bank opened another branch to replace its mini-branch in the Albertson's lobby in Ammon. The 4,700 square-foot branch includes five interior teller windows, three drive-up lanes, an ATM machine, a night depository drop and safe deposit boxes. Zion's has 23 full-service branches in Idaho.
- JRH Transportation Engineering opened an office at Taylor Crossing on the River in Idaho Falls. The company provides experienced transportation engineering, design, project management and land use planning. The manager of the office is Mike Arneson.
- South Fork Inn & Grille in Irwin recently opened its doors to the public following extensive renovation. Formerly the Willow, the Grille offers all American breakfasts, lunch and dinner favorites and beer and wine. The inn features spacious rooms with new paint, carpet, lodgepole furniture and remodeled bathrooms. For menus, activities and more information, the Web site is <http://www.snakeriveroutdoorsman.com>.

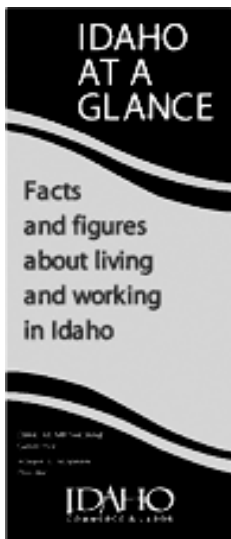
- Buck's convenience store in Idaho Falls is getting a whole new look. The store is being torn down and a 4,000 square-foot retail center is going up. The new Buck's KJ's C Store will have a much larger retail section, a touchless carwash and, of course, gas pumps.

#### Madison County

- Ace Hardware has opened in Rexburg just north of Wal-Mart. The grand opening is planned for some time in October. The Rexburg store is owned by Dan Moldenhauer and will be managed by his son, Daniel. All Ace stores are individually owned and operated. The store features an upscale gift and home décor department and a bike shop along with hardware items. This will be the second Ace store in Rexburg. Mickelsen's Ace Home Center has been in operation since 1937. Moldenhauer believes the two stores will work well in one of Idaho's fastest growing cities.

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### ON THE WEB — <http://lmi.idaho.gov>

#### Idaho at a Glance

This pamphlet provides useful information to people who are moving to Idaho. It includes facts and figures about employment, wages, climate, housing costs, education, recreation, quality of life and resources to find out even more.

Download the PDF file on the Web site, <http://lmi.idaho.gov>. Look for the graphic pictured here and find out more about Idaho.

## UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASES PUSH WAGES UP IN IDAHO

The principle of supply and demand is being borne out in Idaho's dramatic drop in unemployment over the past three years.

As Idaho's economic recovery from the national recession in 2001 drove the state's unemployment rate to record lows, it began moving wages higher.

With the state economy regaining its momentum and the unemployment rate steadily marching toward 4 percent and below, the labor pool was noticeably contracting in 2004, putting pressure on wages. In the final quarter of 2004 that pressure became significant and unrelenting.

9 percent in the final months of 2004, fueled by the resumption of year-end bonuses in many businesses that dropped them until they felt they had regained financial stability.

New hires were benefiting from the same circumstances. The dwindling labor pool was pushing average monthly wages above the levels employers were offering in early 2001 before the slowdown hit.

The statewide average annual wage, a broader measure than the monthly wage measured by the Local Employment Dynamics program, was up 6.5 percent during the last three months of 2004 compared

to the final three months of 2003.

It was the largest fourth quarter year-to-year percentage gain since the average annual wage was up 7.1 percent in the last quarter of 2000 as the 1990s expansion was peaking.

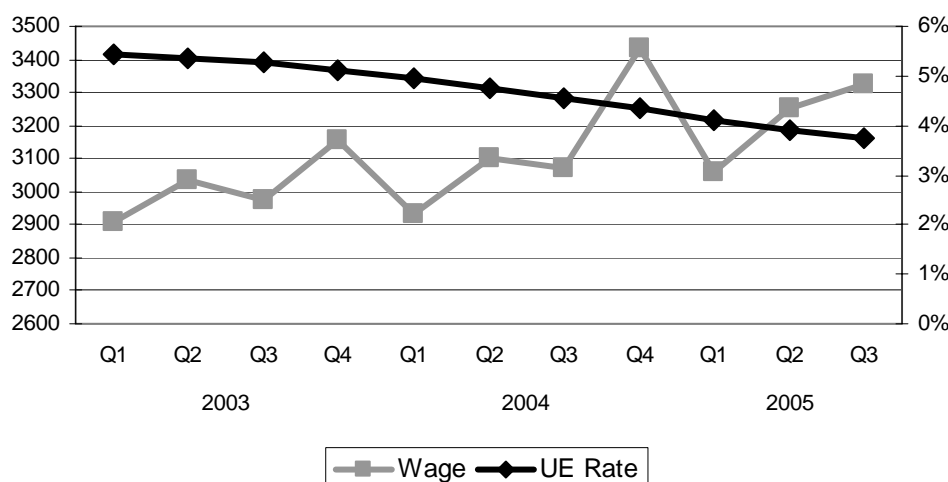
In terms of average monthly wages, paychecks in manufacturing, transportation, warehousing, real estate, business management and recreation, which had been fairly flat since the downturn, all posted double-digit percentage gains from the last quarter of 2003 to the last quarter of 2004.

There were also increases above the statewide average in other sectors like education, health care, accommodations and professional, business and food services.

And in 2005, the seasonal decline in the overall average monthly wage that comes in the summer did not occur. Wages continued moving up.

Average wages for new hires were essentially stagnant from the end of 2001 through most of 2004. But wages began rising significantly in the first half of 2005, eclipsing the wage levels of early 2001 when employers appeared to be hedging against a slowdown by recruiting part-timers so they could limit full-time payrolls.

FYI Chart 1: Average Wage and Unemployment Rates by Quarters, January 2003 to September 2005



Wages began rising as new and expanding businesses looked for skilled, reliable workers and existing businesses wanted to keep the qualified employees they already had, according to wage statistics compiled through Idaho Commerce & Labor's Local Employment Dynamics program.

The Local Employment Dynamics program combines information collected by the Census Bureau and Idaho Commerce & Labor and merges it to provide for the first time details on wages by age, county and industry sector.

Comparing one quarter to the same quarter a year earlier, wages that had generally increased 1 percent or less during and since the slowdown jumped nearly

FYI Table 1: Percentage Growth in Average Monthly Wage by Quarter, 2001-2005

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2001	\$2,935.00	\$2,974.00	\$2,939.00	\$3,032.00
2002	\$2,916.00	\$3,002.00	\$2,945.00	\$3,130.00
% Chg	-0.65%	0.94%	0.20%	3.23%
2003	\$2,907.00	\$3,036.00	\$2,972.00	\$3,157.00
% Chg	-0.31%	1.13%	0.92%	0.86%
2004	\$2,934.00	\$3,101.00	\$3,069.00	\$3,435.00
% Chg	0.93%	2.14%	3.26%	8.81%
2005	\$3,061.00	\$3,254.00	\$3,323.00	N/A
% Chg	4.33%	4.93%	8.28%	N/A

FYI Table 2: Percentage Growth in Average Monthly Wage for New Hires by Quarter, 2001-2005

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2001	\$1,918.00	\$2,330.00	\$1,786.00	\$1,679.00
2002	\$1,739.00	\$1,952.00	\$1,705.00	\$1,819.00
% Chg	-9.33%	-16.22%	-4.54%	8.34%
2003	\$1,641.00	\$1,865.00	\$1,758.00	\$1,674.00
% Chg	-5.64%	-4.46%	3.11%	-7.97%
2004	\$1,706.00	\$2,030.00	\$1,772.00	\$1,990.00
% Chg	3.96%	8.85%	0.80%	18.88%
2005	\$2,255.00	\$2,531.00	\$2,003.00	N/A
% Chg	32.18%	24.68%	13.04%	N/A

While the fluctuation in wages during the first nine months of 2005 followed the historic pattern, it did so at wage levels significantly higher than those being paid during the first half of 2001 as the slowdown was just beginning to hit.

Companies also focused initial wage improvements on their core work force. Workers aged 25 to 34 benefited to some extent from the pressure on the labor pool. But the real increases went to the backbone of most businesses, those between 35 years and retirement, who have the experience and knowledge that companies typically place a significant value on.

Teen workers began seeing the impact toward spring of 2005 although increases in their paychecks were modest. Workers in their early 20s saw the first vestiges of improvement in late 2004.

See pages 24-26 for more charts showing annual wage changes by categories.

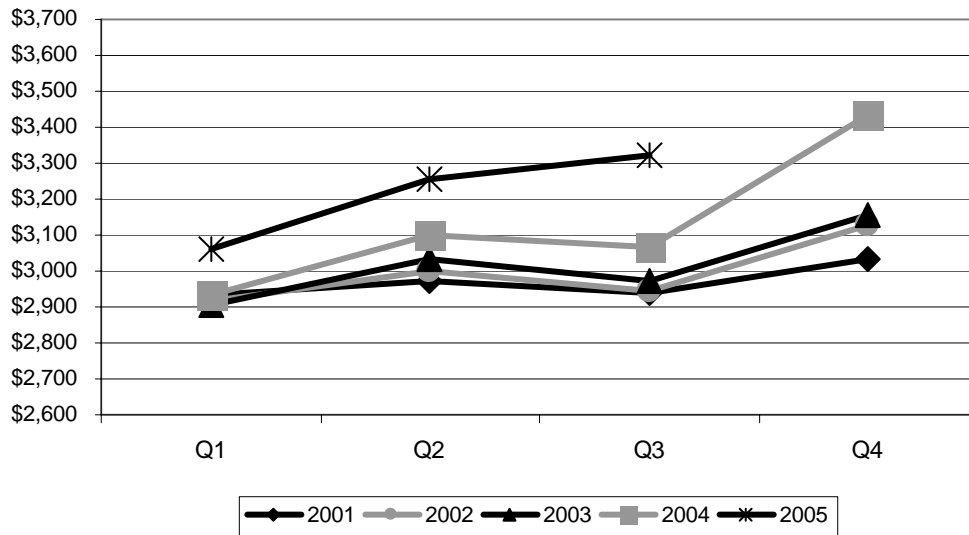
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FYI Table 3: Industry Wages — Average Monthly Wages, by Quarters, 2003 Through Third Quarter 2005

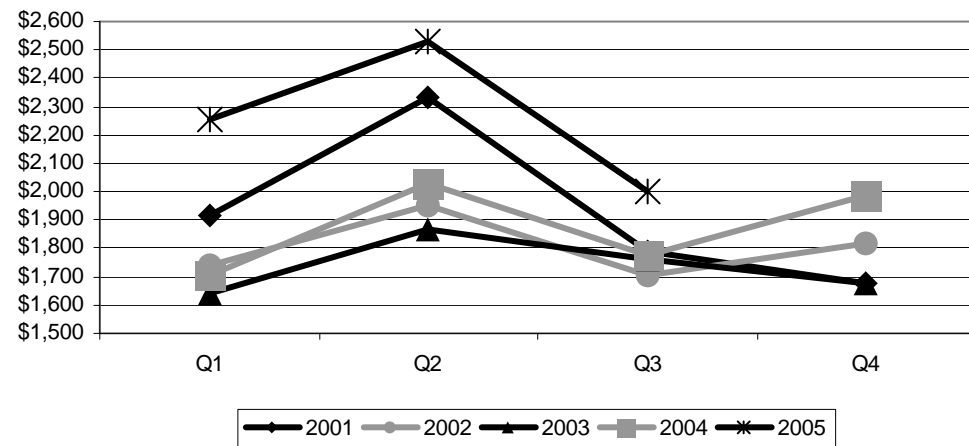
Sector	2003 Q1	2003 Q2	2003 Q3	2003	2004 Q1	2004 Q2	2004 Q3	2004 Q4	2005 Q1	2005 Q2	2005 Q3
Agriculture/	\$1,676	\$2,152	\$2,115	\$2,563	\$1,845	\$2,263	\$2,184	\$2,398	\$1,841	\$2,273	\$2,485
Mining	\$3,071	\$3,964	\$3,341	\$4,751	\$3,312	\$3,470	\$3,581	\$4,949	\$3,039	\$3,016	\$3,501
Utilities	\$4,566	\$3,949	\$3,861	\$5,856	\$4,312	\$3,989	\$4,078	\$5,092	\$4,703	\$4,007	\$4,298
Construction	\$3,088	\$3,267	\$3,156	\$3,421	\$3,001	\$3,333	\$3,276	\$3,508	\$3,013	\$3,526	\$3,645
Manufacturing	\$4,222	\$5,062	\$4,377	\$4,937	\$4,374	\$5,019	\$4,610	\$5,583	\$4,413	\$5,167	\$5,115
Wholesale Trade	\$3,971	\$4,157	\$4,199	\$4,303	\$4,091	\$4,082	\$4,268	\$4,487	\$4,391	\$4,265	\$4,424
Retail Trade	\$2,130	\$2,152	\$2,182	\$2,273	\$2,188	\$2,286	\$2,281	\$2,429	\$2,561	\$2,394	\$2,527
Transportation/	\$2,632	\$2,718	\$2,714	\$2,917	\$2,700	\$2,872	\$2,867	\$3,281	\$2,743	\$2,907	\$3,188
Information	\$3,415	\$3,469	\$3,373	\$3,706	\$3,587	\$3,644	\$3,401	\$3,705	\$3,537	\$3,631	\$3,719
Finance/Insurance	\$4,035	\$3,728	\$3,756	\$3,780	\$3,707	\$3,728	\$3,741	\$3,941	\$4,095	\$3,870	\$4,066
Real Estate/	\$2,033	\$2,192	\$2,232	\$2,359	\$2,160	\$2,376	\$2,410	\$2,945	\$2,456	\$2,661	\$2,859
Professional/	\$3,651	\$3,690	\$3,683	\$4,180	\$3,693	\$3,849	\$3,825	\$4,460	\$3,698	\$4,170	\$3,957
Companies/	\$3,957	\$3,646	\$3,474	\$3,910	\$4,188	\$3,988	\$3,857	\$4,685	\$4,738	\$3,954	\$3,938
Enterprises											
Administrative/											
Support/ Waste	\$1,907	\$2,019	\$2,039	\$2,029	\$2,041	\$2,088	\$2,095	\$2,148	\$2,094	\$2,115	\$2,172
Management											
Educational	\$2,397	\$2,412	\$2,622	\$2,520	\$2,421	\$2,450	\$2,676	\$2,714	\$2,348	\$2,548	\$2,706
Services											
Health Care/	\$2,869	\$2,828	\$3,075	\$3,163	\$2,899	\$2,962	\$3,163	\$3,427	\$2,857	\$3,072	\$3,353
Arts/	\$1,244	\$1,344	\$1,279	\$1,394	\$1,167	\$1,389	\$1,327	\$1,679	\$1,312	\$1,404	\$1,450
Entertainment/											
Accommodation/	\$1,066	\$1,081	\$1,151	\$1,121	\$1,094	\$1,145	\$1,182	\$1,203	\$1,101	\$1,212	\$1,251
Food Services											
Other Services											
(not Public	\$1,898	\$1,982	\$2,033	\$2,062	\$1,931	\$2,013	\$2,087	\$2,187	\$2,000	\$2,159	\$2,267
Administration)											
Public	\$3,188	\$2,997	\$3,207	\$3,064	\$3,226	\$3,087	\$3,344	\$3,446	\$3,023	\$3,199	\$3,432

Source: Census Bureau Quality Work Force Indicators

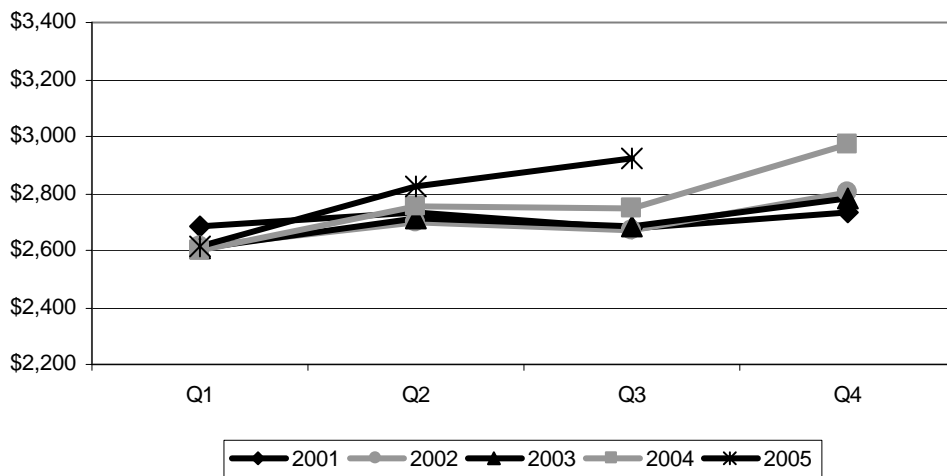
FYI Chart 2: Average Monthly Wage by Quarters, 2001–2005



FYI Chart 3: Average Monthly Wage for New Hires by Quarter, 2001-2005

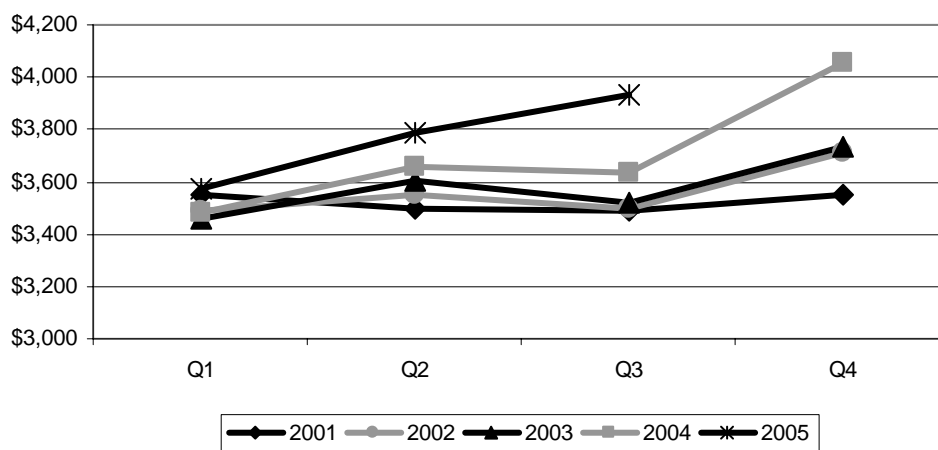


FYI Chart 4: Average Monthly Wage for Workers Aged 25-34 by Quarter, 2001–2005

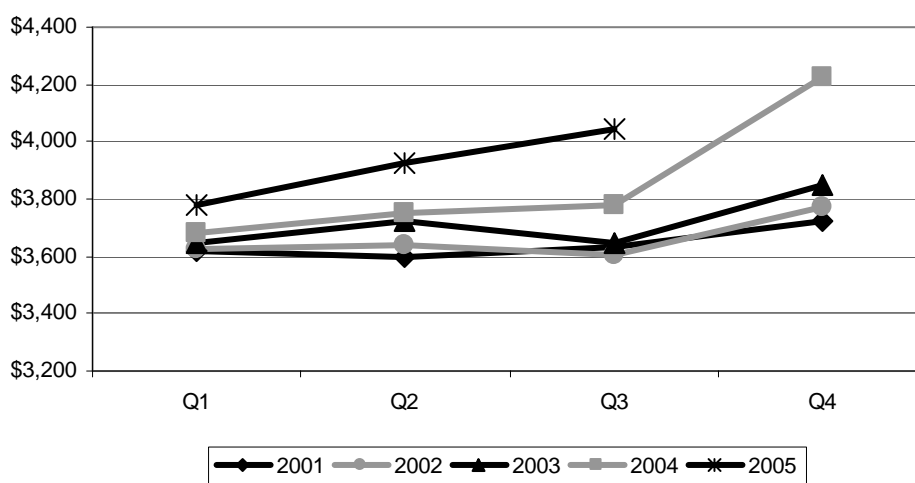




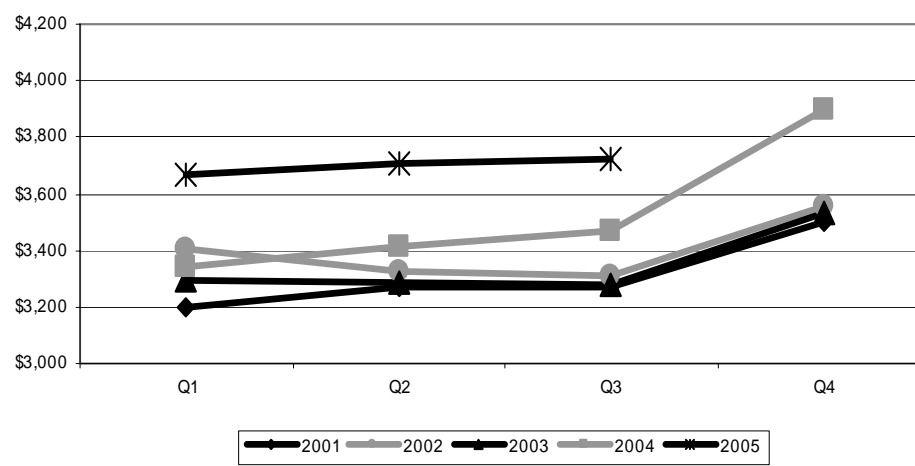
FYI Chart 5: Average Monthly Wage for Workers Aged 35-44 by Quarter, 2001–2005



FYI Chart 6: Average Monthly Wage for Workers Aged 45-54 by Quarter, 2001–2005



FYI Chart 7: Average Monthly Wage for Workers Aged 55-64 by Quarter, 2001–2005



FYI Table 4: Average Monthly Wage By County, Quarterly 2003—Third Quarter of 2005

County	2003 Q1	2003 Q2	2003 Q3	2003 Q4	2004 Q1	2004 Q2	2004 Q3	2004 Q4	2005 Q1	2005 Q2	2005 Q3
Idaho	\$2,419	\$2,506	\$2,530	\$2,652	\$2,468	\$2,592	\$2,617	\$2,848	\$2,517	\$2,677	\$2,813
Ada	\$2,891	\$2,991	\$2,964	\$3,102	\$2,917	\$3,055	\$3,063	\$3,380	\$3,008	\$3,202	\$3,293
Adams	\$1,737	\$1,891	\$1,998	\$2,050	\$1,767	\$1,877	\$1,971	\$2,102	\$1,845	\$1,880	\$2,117
Bannock	\$2,270	\$2,246	\$2,375	\$2,432	\$2,314	\$2,378	\$2,490	\$2,638	\$2,361	\$2,524	\$2,656
Bear Lake	\$1,646	\$1,612	\$1,720	\$1,663	\$1,595	\$1,585	\$1,808	\$1,868	\$1,712	\$1,871	\$1,836
Benewah	\$2,120	\$2,255	\$2,501	\$2,513	\$2,350	\$2,368	\$2,560	\$2,645	\$2,440	\$2,475	\$2,764
Bingham	\$2,065	\$2,086	\$2,130	\$2,312	\$2,093	\$2,184	\$2,212	\$2,443	\$2,130	\$2,255	\$2,336
Blaine	\$2,387	\$2,650	\$2,638	\$3,119	\$2,449	\$2,807	\$2,804	\$3,313	\$2,573	\$2,868	\$3,038
Boise	\$1,608	\$1,791	\$1,771	\$1,853	\$1,870	\$1,856	\$1,906	\$1,821	\$1,833	\$1,915	\$2,028
Bonner	\$2,013	\$2,149	\$2,302	\$2,403	\$2,030	\$2,320	\$2,381	\$2,543	\$2,221	\$2,451	\$2,634
Bonneville	\$2,363	\$2,481	\$2,496	\$2,832	\$2,658	\$2,781	\$2,766	\$2,839	\$2,338	\$2,425	\$2,816
Boundary	\$1,859	\$1,989	\$2,044	\$2,006	\$1,944	\$2,184	\$2,171	\$2,221	\$1,908	\$2,194	\$2,197
Butte	\$4,250	\$4,259	\$4,348	\$3,806	\$3,718	\$3,778	\$3,735	\$4,774	\$4,534	\$4,538	\$4,748
Camas	\$1,551	\$1,584	\$1,599	\$1,955	\$1,444	\$1,566	\$1,696	\$2,381	\$2,104	\$1,926	\$2,043
Canyon	\$2,247	\$2,307	\$2,310	\$2,458	\$2,284	\$2,402	\$2,407	\$2,609	\$2,305	\$2,461	\$2,581
Caribou	\$3,246	\$3,327	\$3,168	\$3,314	\$3,526	\$3,420	\$3,159	\$3,764	\$3,200	\$3,981	\$3,710
Cassia	\$1,884	\$1,957	\$1,985	\$2,118	\$1,902	\$2,067	\$2,082	\$2,210	\$1,978	\$2,043	\$2,186
Clark	\$1,785	\$1,823	\$2,004	\$2,178	\$1,792	\$1,824	\$1,576	\$1,844	\$2,026	\$2,016	\$2,056
Clearwater	\$1,820	\$1,816	\$2,163	\$2,026	\$1,910	\$1,869	\$2,136	\$2,213	\$1,904	\$1,979	\$2,304
Custer	\$1,717	\$1,808	\$1,978	\$2,058	\$1,880	\$1,926	\$2,497	\$1,997	\$1,760	\$2,015	\$3,875
Elmore	\$1,726	\$1,872	\$1,875	\$1,985	\$1,817	\$1,983	\$1,948	\$2,142	\$1,894	\$2,067	\$2,174
Franklin	\$1,627	\$1,839	\$1,791	\$1,915	\$1,630	\$1,853	\$1,838	\$1,937	\$1,721	\$1,923	\$1,963
Fremont	\$1,910	\$1,943	\$2,003	\$2,083	\$1,875	\$2,001	\$2,020	\$2,156	\$1,919	\$2,086	\$2,090
Gem	\$1,746	\$1,744	\$1,829	\$1,833	\$1,729	\$1,820	\$1,868	\$1,932	\$1,788	\$1,810	\$2,026
Gooding	\$1,836	\$1,994	\$1,969	\$2,106	\$1,952	\$2,084	\$2,026	\$2,255	\$2,095	\$2,143	\$2,221
Idaho	\$1,884	\$1,966	\$2,048	\$2,045	\$1,914	\$2,008	\$2,075	\$2,144	\$1,974	\$2,064	\$2,187
Jefferson	\$1,655	\$1,816	\$1,786	\$1,984	\$1,715	\$1,882	\$1,933	\$1,900	\$1,773	\$1,965	\$1,987
Jerome	\$2,063	\$2,080	\$2,158	\$2,212	\$2,080	\$2,191	\$2,275	\$2,355	\$2,157	\$2,276	\$2,411
Kootenai	\$2,222	\$2,264	\$2,370	\$2,430	\$2,280	\$2,372	\$2,408	\$2,613	\$2,331	\$2,470	\$2,596
Latah	\$2,125	\$2,092	\$2,358	\$2,179	\$2,168	\$2,162	\$2,447	\$2,372	\$2,078	\$2,229	\$2,519
Lemhi	\$1,535	\$1,612	\$1,665	\$1,695	\$1,559	\$1,690	\$1,741	\$1,783	\$1,594	\$1,753	\$1,818
Lewis	\$1,604	\$1,699	\$1,805	\$1,957	\$1,758	\$1,919	\$2,017	\$2,183	\$1,857	\$2,037	\$2,227
Lincoln	\$1,712	\$1,853	\$1,838	\$1,908	\$1,738	\$1,896	\$1,943	\$2,147	\$1,926	\$2,071	\$2,108
Madison	\$1,884	\$2,128	\$2,090	\$2,176	\$1,963	\$2,153	\$2,104	\$2,301	\$2,089	\$2,247	\$2,314
Minidoka	\$1,952	\$2,063	\$2,075	\$2,340	\$2,007	\$2,183	\$2,193	\$2,439	\$2,046	\$2,243	\$2,409
Nez Perce	\$2,493	\$2,628	\$2,607	\$2,774	\$2,587	\$2,658	\$2,709	\$2,873	\$2,630	\$2,707	\$2,849
Oneida	\$1,600	\$1,602	\$1,688	\$1,632	\$1,623	\$1,657	\$1,742	\$1,864	\$1,636	\$1,783	\$1,838
Owyhee	\$1,832	\$1,906	\$1,820	\$2,025	\$1,891	\$1,966	\$1,890	\$2,122	\$1,909	\$1,966	\$2,127
Payette	\$2,141	\$2,144	\$2,165	\$2,284	\$2,116	\$2,185	\$2,181	\$2,396	\$2,214	\$2,304	\$2,354
Power	\$2,242	\$2,334	\$2,436	\$2,493	\$2,286	\$2,485	\$2,353	\$2,740	\$2,528	\$2,601	\$2,722
Shoshone	\$2,145	\$2,130	\$2,320	\$2,305	\$2,217	\$2,294	\$2,430	\$2,580	\$2,233	\$2,366	\$2,539
Teton	\$1,832	\$1,954	\$2,039	\$2,095	\$1,933	\$2,050	\$2,124	\$2,177	\$1,914	\$2,110	\$2,220
Twin Falls	\$2,108	\$2,199	\$2,219	\$2,330	\$2,102	\$2,229	\$2,251	\$2,456	\$2,181	\$2,288	\$2,450
Valley	\$1,757	\$1,878	\$1,942	\$2,026	\$1,856	\$1,989	\$2,062	\$2,186	\$2,138	\$2,167	\$2,396
Washington	\$1,655	\$1,793	\$1,829	\$1,968	\$1,716	\$1,859	\$1,886	\$2,035	\$1,846	\$2,012	\$2,055

Source: Census Bureau Quarterly Workforce Indicators

# Glossary of Labor Market Terms

**Agriculture Employment:** Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

**Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours:** The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Average Weekly Earnings:** Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

**Civilian Labor Force:** A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

**Covered Employers:** Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

**Durable Goods:** Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

**Employed:** Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

**Initial Claim:** Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

**Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA):** Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

**Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA):** Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban

centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

**Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment:** Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

**Nondurable Goods:** Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

**Seasonally Adjusted:** Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

**Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA):** Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

**Unemployed:** Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

**Unemployment Insurance:** Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

**Unemployment Rate:** The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

**Weekly Benefit Amount:** The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

**Weeks Claimed:** The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

**Weeks Compensated:** The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.